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REVIEWS

The Works of Robert Hall, A.M. Published under the Superintendence of Olinthus Gregory, LL.D. F.R.A.S. Vol. VI. London: Holdsworth & Ball.

We have already given our opinion of the character of Robert Hall, both as a man and a preacher.† Our present object, therefore, is, neither to speak critically of his writings, nor to enter into any formal examination of his moral and intellectual peculiarities, but to make such use of the memoir prefixed to the present volume, as may enable our readers to judge, in some degree, of the circumstances under which this admirable man pursued his career of rarely equalled usefulness and honour. Some disappointment will be felt by many of the subscribers to the work, at finding that no materials were left by Sir James Mackintosh for the biography, and we are half inclined to read a lecture to literary men of eminence, against lending their names to works, without guarding, at least in some degree, against contingencies, which might prevent the fulfilment of their engagements. We make this observation, however, from no dissatisfaction at Dr. Gregory's Memoir, which is drawn up with great elegance and good sense; while the admirable Essay, by Mr. Foster, on Robert Hall's character as a preacher, seems to render it one of the most valuable and interesting pieces of biography extant.

The subject of this memoir was born near Leicester, in May, 1764. His father was a Baptist minister, and is described as a man, not of much learning, but pious, eloquent, and, as a preacher, successful; while his son adds, that "he appeared to the greatest advantage upon subjects where the faculties of most men failed them, for the natural element of his mind was greatness." Even in infancy, Robert, who was the youngest of fourteen children, gave many indications of future eminence, and before he was ten years old, had learned to read with delight such works as Butler's Analogy, and the Treatises of Jonathan Edwards, and had begun to write Essays on the most perplexing points of metaphysical theology. At the age of eleven he was sent to board with the Rev. John Ryland, of Northampton, and, in 1778, became a student of the Bristol Institution for the education of Baptist ministers; while in this establishment he exhibited powers of mind and moral sensibilities which pointed him out as destined to become one of the brightest ornaments and most efficient members, not merely of the sect, but of the Christian world at large. An anecdote is recorded of him at this period, which will be read with interest. Having been appointed to preach, by way of performing an exercise, in the vestry of Broadmead Chapel, he began a discourse on the 1 Tim. iv.

v. 10, which promised all that his tutors and others had expected from him, but he had not proceeded far, when he suddenly stopped, and, covering his face with his hands, exclaimed, "Oh! I have lost all my ideas," and sat down, still hiding his face. For the double purpose of teaching him confidence, and enabling him to vindicate his character for ability, he was appointed to preach on the same subject the following week; but another, and a still more decisive failure was the consequence, and, dreadfully agitated, he made a hasty retreat from the chapel to his room, on entering which, he exclaimed, "If this does not humble me, the devil must have me."

We hear no more of these disasters, and having been solemnly admitted to the ministerial functions by his father's congregation, he proceeded to King's College, Aberdeen, to a studentship in which he had been elected on the foundation of Dr. Ward. Several eminent men were at this time professors in the University, among them were Beattie, Campbell, Dr. Gerard, celebrated for his divinity lectures, Ogilvie, Dunbar, and Leslie. In point of literary advantages, therefore, Mr. Hall found himself very favourably situated, and he appears to have made use of the opportunities offered him with characteristic ardour. Aberdeen, however, like some other Universities, was fearfully deficient in the moral management of the students, and the letters of our author are replete with bitter reproaches of the vice and levity which disgraced the colleges. Dr. Gregory laments in this part of his memoir, that the death of Sir James Mackintosh has left a blank "with regard to Mr. Hall's character, habits, and the development of his intellectual powers," which no one else can fill up. From an extract, however, which Professor Paul has communicated, from the college records, and from circumstances in the recollection of Dr. Jack and himself, our author, it appears, spent his first year in studying Greek under Mr. Leslie, and the three following under Mr. Macleod, with whom he pursued the various branches of natural and moral philosophy. We learn from the same source, that he took the degree of M.A. on the 30th of March 1785; that he attended the lectures of the Professor of Humanity; that he and Sir James Mackintosh read a great deal of Greek in private; that he was the first scholar of the several classes he attended, and was, with Sir James, the principal ornament of a little literary society, formed under the superintendence of the head of the College. To this it is added, "But it was not as a scholar alone that Mr. Hall's reputation was great at College. He was considered by all the students as a model of correct and regular deportment, of religious and moral habits, of friendly and benevolent affections." We subjoin the account which Dr. Gregory gathered from Sir James Mackintosh himself, respecting his early intimacy with Mr. Hall.

"When these two eminent men first became

acquainted, Sir James was in his eighteenth year, Mr. Hall about a year older. Sir James described Mr. Hall, as attracting notice by a most ingenious and intelligent countenance, by the liveliness of his manner, and by such indications of mental activity as could not be misinterpreted. His appearance was that of health, yet not of robust health; and he often suffered from paroxysms of pain, during which he would roll about on the carpet, in the utmost agony; but no sooner had the pain subsided than he would resume his part in conversation with as much cheerfulness and vivacity as before he had been thus interrupted. Sir James said he became attached to Mr. Hall, 'because he could not help it.' There wanted many of the supposed constituents of friendship. Their tastes, at the commencement of their intercourse, were widely different; and upon most of the important topics of inquiry, there was no congeniality of sentiment: yet notwithstanding this, the substratum of their minds seemed of the same cast, and upon this, Sir James thought, the edifice of their mutual regard first rested. Yet he, ere long, became fascinated by his brilliancy and acumen, in love with his cordiality and ardour, and 'awe-struck' (I think that was the term employed) by the transparency of his conduct and the purity of his principles. They read together; they sat together at lecture, if possible; they walked together. In their joint studies, they read much of Xenophon, and Herodotus, and more of Plato; and so well was all this known, exciting admiration in some, in others envy, that it was not unusual, as they went along, for their class-fellows to point at them and say, 'There go Plato and Herodotus.' But the arena in which they met most frequently was that of morals and metaphysics; furnishing topics of incessant disputation. After having sharpened their weapons by reading, they often repaired to the spacious sands upon the sea shore, and still more frequently to the picturesque scenery on the banks of the Don, above the old town, to discuss with eagerness the various subjects to which their attention had been directed. There was scarcely an important position in Berkeley's Minute Philosopher, in Butler's Analogy, or in Edwards on the Will, over which they had not thus debated with the utmost intensity. Night after night, nay, month after month, for two sessions, they met only to study or to dispute; yet no unkindly feeling ensued. The process seemed rather, like blows in that of welding iron, to knit them closer together. Sir James said, that his companion as well as himself often contended for victory, yet never, so far as he could then judge, did either make a voluntary sacrifice of truth, or stoop to draw to and fro the *serra λογιστικής*, as is too often the case with ordinary controversialists. From these discussions, and from subsequent meditation upon them, Sir James learnt more as to principles (such, at least, he assured me, was his deliberate conviction) than from all the books he ever read. On the other hand, Mr. Hall through life reiterated his persuasion, that his friend possessed an intellect more analogous to that of Bacon, than any person of modern times; and that if he had devoted his powerful understanding to metaphysics, instead of law and politics, he would have thrown an unusual light upon that intricate but valuable region of inquiry. Such was the cordial, reciprocal testimony of these two distinguished men. And, in

† See Athenæum, No. 198.

many respects—latterly, I hope and believe, in all the most essential—it might be truly said of both 'as face answereth to face in a glass, so does the heart of a man to his friend.'

While still at College he was chosen as an assistant to Dr. Caleb Evans, the minister of Broadmead Chapel, Bristol, and officiated there during the College recess. On leaving Aberdeen, he entered on the regular performance of his ministerial duties, obtaining a rapid popularity by his eloquence and amiable demeanour. There was, however, it is stated, some want of that deep seriousness and purely scriptural doctrine which so powerfully marked his more mature labours. Nor was this defect removed by his being appointed classical tutor to the Institution at which he had been brought up. He remained in this situation five years, and the manner in which he was regarded by the most excellent and experienced men of his acquaintance at this period, will be understood from the following extract from the journals of Dr. Ryland and Mr. Fuller.

"Mr. Fuller writes. '1784, May 7. Heard Mr. Robert Hall, jun., from "He that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow." Felt very solemn in hearing some parts.—The Lord keep that young man!'

"Again, '1785, June 14. Taken up with the company of Mr. Robert Hall, jun.; feel much pain for him. The Lord, in mercy to him and his churches in this country, keep him in the path of truth and righteousness.'

"In like manner, Dr. Ryland, 'June 8, 1785. Robert Hall, jun. preached wonderfully from Rom. viii. 18, "For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us." I admire many things in this young man exceedingly, though there are others that make me fear for him. O that the Lord may keep him humble, and make him prudent!'

"Again, 'June 15. Rode to Clifton to attend the ministers' meeting. R. Hall, jun. preached a glorious sermon, on the immutability of God, from James i. 17, "The father of lights, with whom is no variableness, nor shadow of turning."

"Again, '1786, June 13. Sent off a letter to Robert Hall, jun., which I wrote chiefly in answer to one of his some months ago, wherein he replied to mine concerning some disagreeable reports from Birmingham: added some new hints respecting another matter lately reported. O that God may keep that young man in the way of truth and holiness."

When about twenty-three, Mr. Hall heard Mr. Robinson, of Cambridge, and was half tempted to become his imitator, but told a friend of his that he was "too proud to remain one." "After my second trial," says he, "as I was walking home, I heard one of the congregation say to another, 'Really Mr. Hall did remind us of Mr. Robinson!' That, Sir, was a knock-down-blow to my vanity; and I at once resolved that if ever I did acquire reputation, it should be my own reputation, belong to my own character, and not be that of a likeness."

Some disputes happened between Dr. Evans and his young coadjutor, which by no means contributed to the comfort of the latter; but in 1790 he was chosen to succeed Mr. Robinson at Cambridge, and a new and important field was thus opened for the exercise of his ability. He was amply successful, and not only gained the entire affections and admiration of his own people, but was

attended by several of the most talented members of the University.

The gradual development of his opinions, the enlargement of his religious views, and the increasing power with which he upheld the sublime truths which had obtained the mastery of his mind, are traced by Dr. Gregory with great good sense; and every page of the Memoir, as we proceed, gives us a higher opinion of his ability as a biographer. We cannot, however, follow him in this portion of his work so closely as we should wish, and must be contented with stating, that Mr. Hall's reputation was about this time much increased by his appearing as an author. His first publication, 'An Apology for the Freedom of the Press,' was dictated by the spirit of the times, and presented most of the features which command popularity, with others which could only be impressed upon it by superlative ability. At Cambridge Dr. Gregory became intimately acquainted with him, and there he enjoyed a brief renewal of personal communication with his early friend Sir James Mackintosh, who resided there for a short time to consult the libraries of the University. But Cambridge suited neither his taste nor his health, and such was his abhorrence of the flat, unvaried character of the neighbourhood, that he remarked many years after he had left the University, "I always say of my Cambridge friends, when I witness their contentedness in such a country, 'Herein is the faith and patience of the saints.' My faith and patience could not sustain me under it, with the unvarying kindness of my friends in addition." Another time, when riding with a gentleman, who said to him, "Look at these fields, with the crops of corn so smooth and so abundant, are not they pleasant? and do they not unite ideas of plenty?" he replied in a similar strain, "Oh! yes; and so does a large meal-tub, filled to the brim. But I was not thinking of plenty, but of beauty."

Society and intense study, however, rendered him in some degree resigned to the local inconveniences he thus endured; while his celebrated sermon on Modern Infidelity raised him to a degree of reputation, which secured him not merely popular respect, but the friendship of men of the greatest talents and virtue. But while thus successfully exerting his powerful intellect, an excruciating disorder in the back, under which he had suffered from boyhood, his injudicious retirement to a country residence, where he was left almost entirely to his books, and an increasing irritability as well as quickness of thought, gradually made a dangerous impression on his system, and his mind became deranged. He was placed under the care of Dr. Con, and happily soon recovered; but the same misfortune assailed him about a year afterwards, and on his recovery, he found that his health absolutely required that he should resign his charge of the chapel at Cambridge. His congregation, who had handsomely made a subscription to provide him with an annuity of one hundred pounds for life, and with a sum to be at his own disposal by will, were deeply affected at the separation; but their pastor's usefulness was only to be lengthened by this sacrifice, and they had the satisfaction of hearing that, in Leicester, and its neighbourhood, he was pursuing the same course, with renewed health

and mental vigour, as at Cambridge. In 1808, he married, and, by the judicious choice he had made, enjoyed, to the end of his life, uninterrupted domestic felicity. His residence at Leicester was prolonged to a period of twenty years, but in 1825 the death of Dr. Ryland led to his being invited to undertake the charge of the congregation of Broadmead Chapel, Bristol. After some consideration, he accepted the call, and his valuable labours were closed where they had commenced.

An account was before given of the death of this extraordinary man; but Dr. Gregory has added some few remarks, which he made as the end became more distinctly visible, from which we take the following as strongly characteristic of his character and feelings:—

"'I have not,' said he, 'one anxious thought either for life or death. What I dread most, are dark days. But I have had not yet, and I hope I shall not have any.' Again, 'I fear pain more than death. If I could die easily, I think I would rather go than stay; for I have seen enough of the world, and I have a humble hope.'

Of the admirable essay by Mr. Foster, it is sufficient to say, that it has increased our opinion of that gentleman's ability, high as it was before. It may be perused with equal pleasure by the professional student and the general scholar. We seldom, however, read a lengthened criticism of the kind, without a feeling that there was a beau-ideal standard of excellence in the mind of the writer while composing, which he laboured to describe, and that he ought, therefore, to be looked upon rather as an eloquent lecturer on a spiritual model, than on a real and living being. Mr. Foster's essay is almost perfect when thus viewed; but even when Robert Hall is the subject, there are some things which a eulogist may, and a critic may not, say.

Arthur Coningsby, a Novel. 3 vols. London: Effingham Wilson.

NOVEL reading is to some constitutions a sort of literary bulimy, or unnatural appetite, which regards quantity rather than quality. There are wholesale eaters who can devour a leg of mutton and trimmings at a sitting, and there are readers who will get through a novel of three volumes merely as a whet. We knew a lady whose ordinary ration was three novels a day: but then she was not particular as to the viands: she was contented, so she had a hearty meal, to go to the cook-shop of A.-K. Newman. All she wanted was a stuff, though it might be only stuff and nonsense.

We do not quarrel, therefore, with the caterers to this craving, but regard the issue of weak novels to these hungerers as a sort of charity—as a distribution of soup to the poor. Should any sharpset lady, like our friend, be reduced to want, not having tasted a novel for twenty-four hours, let her go to Mr. Effingham Wilson for a meal, and 'Arthur Coningsby' will serve for a stop-gap as well as most other novels of its class. In the meantime we will just lift up the cover of the work, and give her a sniff of the relish she may expect. It describes a lady of delicate constitution, who required a deal of support, but neglected to take it.

"Her features were regular and striking, and her dark grey eyes could not conceal their

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splendour. But there was an utter absence of all bloom in her complexion, of all lightness and sparkle in her expression. Her brow seemed laden with a fixed weight, and there was a rigidity like that of iron in her closed lips. Yet the soft clearness of her skin, and the rounded and elastic delicacy of her form, indicated that her age was under twenty. Her dress and hair, alike sable, were arranged with severe simplicity. Her countenance and manner were impressed with the marks of asceticism and sorrow, thought and courage, which, though beheld through the softening medium of her sex, were unrelieved by a touch of gaiety, and divested of that endearing charm, the tendency of women to lean and repose on those around them."

Two Years and a Half in the American Navy: comprising a Journal of a Cruise to England, in the Mediterranean, and in the Levant, on board of the U. S. Frigate Constellation, in the Years 1829, 1830, and 1831. By E. C. Wines. 2 vols. London: Bentley.

THE readers of the title-page of this book will be apt to think of the author as an American Glascow or Marryat—but, as the Irishman says, they will "think a lie." The simple fact is, the schoolmaster of the U. S. ship *Constellation* has been abroad, and these two volumes comprise a journal of his Englanding and Levanting.

This American Sindbad commences his narrative with an account of his leave-taking, written in a very sentimental style. On parting with his friends, he exclaims—

"Let shallow misanthropes exhaust their ingenuity in vilifying human virtue, I cannot join the heartless cry! I will never believe that friendship is but another name for selfishness, and I despise the wretch whose mercenary soul resolves it into a mere commerce of interests!"

We have then very many pages of port journalising. The signal, however, is at last made for sailing—the Atlantic, "illimitable and wild," lies all before them, and to "the westward, Staten Island, beautiful as fairy land and a thousand times more real."

Blessed by favouring gales, the *Constellation* arrives safe in the British Channel, and drops anchor at Spithead. Unfortunately, there are some inaccuracies in dates—but as "England" stands conspicuous in the title-page of the work, it may be worth while to consider attentively the opportunities that our schoolmaster had for observation on this country. It appears, then, that on the 11th of September he first got sight of England—the ship could not, therefore, have cast anchor at Spithead before the 12th. The next morning, he observes, "I asked the captain if I might go ashore, and was answered in four words, 'Not at present, Sir.'" In the evening, however, and "for a few hours," he was permitted to visit Cowes—hours, indeed, of intense feeling, worth an ordinary life:—

"It is impossible," he observes, "to describe the feelings with which I first set foot on English soil. It was as if my soul had been bathed in some Elysian dream. As I wandered among the enchanting villas which form the suburbs of West Cowes, I could scarcely avoid exclaiming aloud, 'This, then, is really the native land of Shakespeare and Milton, the brightest stars that ever gilded the heaven of poetry; of Newton and Locke, those magicians in the philosophy of matter and of mind; of Burke, Fox, and Pitt, names synonymous with all that is mighty and

splendid in eloquence; and of a thousand others, *famam qui terminant astris*, and whose writings will continue to instruct and delight the latest ages."

The next day (the 14th) he began his tour of observation, and set off in the evening, and on foot, for Newport, distant about six or seven miles from Cowes. His first and only introduction to English society there took place, and was accidental:—

"It was nightfall before I reached Newport. I had the good fortune to stumble upon a hotel where a club, called the Social Friends' Club, was to hold its weekly meeting. I was politely invited to attend, and at eight o'clock was ushered into a spacious hall, with a table extending the whole length of it, around which were seated some fifty gentlemen. The table was covered with pipes, tobacco, and liquors. Each member is required by the rules of the club to sing a song when called upon, and the last singer is entitled to name his successor."

The reflections on "this memorable evening," as it is styled, are interesting and philosophical:—

"I have often wondered, and still wonder, why clubs for literary conversation are not more common in our own country. Nothing is so well fitted to whet the intellect and prepare it for rapid movements, as free extemporaneous discussion. The flint does not scintillate till brought into contact with some foreign substance; so the brightest emanations of genius are often elicited by the collision of different intellects. Who will deny that Johnson, Burke, Goldsmith, and Sir Joshua Reynolds were largely indebted for their conversational celebrity, and even for their conversational powers, to clubs of this kind?"

On the following day, he paid "a touch-and-go visit to Southampton on the main land," and subsequently for a few hours to Portsmouth—but on the 20th, the *Constellation* got under weigh, and the schoolmaster bade farewell to England. Mr. Wines is very civil in all he is pleased to say of this country—we only regret he had not a better opportunity of making observations. With these dates and facts staring us in the face, it does seem ridiculous to hear him talk after the following fashion:—"It is astonishing to observe to what an extent a taste for rural beauties prevails in England"—"Of all the countries I have ever visited, England makes the heaviest draws upon a man's purse"—"The glory of an English landscape"—"The English are quite as inquisitive as the Americans"—"The uncouth fashion of leaning back on the two hind legs of a chair, is not altogether a 'Yankee notion,' as I learned, to my utter astonishment on that memorable evening,"—the evening passed at the Cat and Bagpipes at Newport.

Spain is judged by a still more flagrant extension of the rule "*ex pede Herculem*." No sooner has the author visited Port Mahon, in the island of Minorca, than he holds himself justified to dogmatize on the condition of the mother country, with the edifying authority of a pedagogue explaining the first principles of the exact sciences.

It is true that he subsequently visits Barcelona, but on his arrival there, his views embrace no bounded reign,

Our panting selves toiled after him in vain.

His first step on the continent inspires him, and he vaticinates the future destinies of all Europe from what he saw, or thought he saw, with the most perfect complacency.

He details with wondrous precision every political change which the "three glorious days" will produce from North Cape to Cape Matapan, and leaves

Madame Krudener, the she prophet,
To make just what she pleases of it.

While off the coast of Spain, he takes to reading Don Quixote, and in an elaborate critique grinds him worse than the windmill. He then turns to a general view of Spanish literature, for which his materials were just as ample as those that Port Mahon afforded for his reflections on Spain itself.

At Marseilles the officers of the *Constellation* gave a ball to the citizens; and on this occasion the author, as a description of the scene presented by the deck of the vessel, quotes

Belgium's capital had gathered there
Her beauty and her chivalry.

Thus far, however, he had

Bridled in his struggling nose,

but, having received a classical education—that is, having read Virgil, Horace, and the ordinary school authors, he deems it right to assume an Ossianic style, and to describe the scenes of the *Æneid* with a grandiloquence compounded of Macpherson and Dr. Johnson. Some of his metaphors are truly wonderful; for instance—

"The churches in Florence are very numerous, and the merit of their architecture ranges [qu. rages?] through all the degrees of the architectural thermometer."

A building may be at fever-heat without being a fever-hospital, it seems; and the merits of Michael Angelo must be measured by the centigrade.

Our next specimen is equally good; it forms part of the description of Virgil's tomb.

"But an aged ilex still over-shadows the tomb, a luxuriant mantle of ivy covers its walls, and green scented shrubbery perfumes the breezes that sigh over the ashes of the Mantuan Swain."

We shall let the "luxuriant mantle" pass; it may be justified by the common phrase "a seedy coat," but the colour of smells is a discovery that merits immortality. It can only be paralleled by the old Irish song,

The bees perfuming the fields with music,
Which yields more beauty to Castle Hyde.

The few remarks made by the schoolmaster on the effects that result from the cultivation of the Fine Arts, have a very amusing air of originality.

"The master-pieces of the chisel and of the pencil ought not to be regarded as the mere pastimes of vacant brains; they constitute a part of the true glory of a nation, not less than discoveries in political economy, jurisprudence, and science, and they may be made subservient to the same beneficent ends with poetry and moral essays."

This is doubtless true, though some sturdy objector, after reading this work, may remark that "poetry and moral essays" are as frequently "the mere pastimes of vacant brains" as "the master-pieces of the chisel and the pencil." On a second visit to Port Mahon, our author meets another "schoolmaster abroad," and thus poetizes on the interview:

"It is refreshing to meet with such persons, and we passed many a cozy hour in discussing the beauties of Tully and Flaccus, and in reviving the reminiscences of classic boyhood. The recollections of college life are remembrances that cling to the soul, as the vine does to the elm to which it is wedded. They are the cases of human life—the green spots that cheer its sterility and desolation."

Such a schoolmaster must have been a strange teacher of the mathematics: and we find, that his pupils, in their hours of study, were remarkable for their rambling and discursive habits. He adds, however—

"Such outrageously eccentric orbits were not common to our mathematico-aqueous comets, but they were generally more or less irregular, owing to a want of a proper reciprocity of action between the centripetal and centrifugal forces."

This is, we confess, a settler—we can copy no more—

Even Job himself would lose all patience here.

We shall not dwell on the folly of reprinting such a work as this; let publishers be guided by their own sense, or nonsense, until their pockets teach them wisdom. But we must, in strong terms, denounce the practice of sailing a book under false colours. The American Navy occupies very few chapters of these volumes; and even from those, we only learn, as nautical novelties, that the "holders" of the *Constellation* worked themselves into half moons—"from the constant habit of stooping they acquire almost the shape of a crescent"—that the men of the *John Adams* drink nothing but Adam's ale—that their frigates are beset, Chassé like, with "bomb-boats," named after *Shelley*, we suppose, by our poetical schoolmaster—that the whistles of American boatswains and their mates sound like rams' horns (p. 131)—that, in fair weather practice, American ships "load and fire their guns" without wasting an ounce of gunpowder (p. 61)—that a hemp cable brings a ship to her senses (p. 2)—and, finally, that American seamen are pretty considerably *Dutch*-built.

"Their crews were dressed in their summer uniforms, and their long lines of graceful beauty contrasted finely with the heaving mass that was slowly moving at their stern." (p. 144.)

Transactions of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, for the Session 1831-2. Being Part I. of Vol. XLIX. London: Sold by the Housekeeper at the Society's House, Adelphi.

CARELESS thinkers, a race unfortunately too numerous, have wasted more argumentative ridicule in assailing learned societies than would fill a goodly library. They say, and not without truth, that the discoveries to which men are impelled, by the hope of medals and prizes, are for the most part refinements, of little practical value. Now, if this were admitted as universally true, if no discovery of importance had ever emanated from any of these societies, their utility would still be sufficiently great to entitle them to support. An ingenious invention, inapplicable to any important or valuable purpose, is not on that account to be rejected as useless; it may suggest new combinations of powers, and display new modifications, which, though of little worth in the primary application, may contribute to the perfection of arts never contemplated by the original inventor. Instances of such abound in the history of Art; there are countless examples of improvements thus mediately introduced, and there is no person moderately acquainted with the present state of machinery, who could not mention several within the sphere of his own experience. From these societies we gain another advantage of even greater

importance: they lead men to think on the principles that form the basis of their several arts; to combine science with practice, and, though only in a few instances this combination may lead to new inventions, it, in all, secures the perfection of what has been already invented. We have made these few remarks, because we are compelled to say, that there is more ingenuity than utility displayed in many of the new inventions recorded in this part of the Society's Transactions; and yet we feel bound to add, that the record even of such possesses great value.

The second article in the Agricultural division has a moral importance, infinitely beyond that of any invention that all the regions of Art could offer. It is on "the utility of making small allotments of land to the labouring poor," and details the result of an experiment made by W. T. C. Cooper, Esq., in the parish of Toddington, in Derbyshire. The simple narrative of the result renders all argument in favour of the system superfluous:—

"At Michaelmas 1830, a large field was divided amongst forty-one labourers, in pieces varying in size according to the ridges into which it was accustomed to be ploughed, giving the larger portions to those with the largest families. This land was of the same quality, and was let upon the same terms as the former; but as it was for the most part extremely foul and out of condition, very little wheat was put in; and indeed it was apprehended in the spring that the men would hardly be able to get their potatoes in; but they turned to with hearty good will (*they were working for themselves*); and the farmers having ploughed the land for them in the autumn, they set most of it with potatoes, and some corn and vegetables: their crop of potatoes has been abundant, some of the lots having yielded from sixty to eighty and ninety bushels.

"That the people receive benefit from these allotments, is evident from the labour they bestow, not only in getting out the twitch grass, and other weeds, but also from their *actually making good and substantial hollow drains*. It is further shown by their good and orderly conduct. In summer evenings, instead of idly lounging about the place, or doing mischief, they are occupied about their land. It is a heart-cheering sight to see from forty to fifty persons, after their master's work is done, labouring upon their own little farms, weeding and clearing the crops till daylight fails, and then going quietly home, doubtless with the pleasing anticipation of their labour eventually making them independent of the parish, as their fathers, or rather their grandfathers, had been formerly. * * *

"The rules and terms upon which the land is held are very few and simple, and cannot be misunderstood or forgotten. In the first place, the rent is to be paid *punctually* on each quarter-day, under a penalty for default of immediate loss of land and crop on it; secondly, if any of the men are convicted before a magistrate of any breach of the law, the land and crop is, in like manner, forfeited; lastly, it is particularly insisted upon, that they shall be very watchful over the morals of their families, and regularly frequent some place of public worship; and especially that the children be not permitted to be *idling about the streets after nightfall*.

"In granting the allotments, regard was, of course, had to the characters of the applicants; and those who were notoriously bad were objected to. This rule was all well enough to begin with; but, upon reflection, it was thought right to give those whose characters did not stand very well a chance of retrieving themselves: as one of them said, 'I know, Sir, that you have

not a very good opinion of me; but give me an opportunity of honestly employing my time, and you shall see that my land shall be as well cultivated as the rest, and no fault shall be found with me in other matters.' He has hitherto kept his word: he has hollow-drained his land, and bestowed as much labour and pains upon it as if it were his own freehold.

"I may add, that the labourers all reside in the town or village of Toddington, and that the rents have been paid punctually on the day when they became due."

In the division of Polite Arts, Mr. Shuttleworth's improvement of the Centro-linead deserves to be noticed; it is one of the inventions that bring to mind the egg of Columbus; its simplicity is so great, that we wonder no one thought of it before, and yet its application is so ingenious, that it could only have been discovered by a man of sound thought and patient investigation. At least equal praise is due to Mr. Heming's safe tube for the oxy-hydrogen blow-pipe, and Mr. Slack's dissecting microscope. The observations made with the latter on the motion of fluids in plants, are among the most interesting microscopic discoveries of modern times.

We should gladly have made some extracts from Mr. Riley's observations on the Cashmere Angora breed of goats, which he intends to introduce into the Australian colonies, but we must give the preference to the excellent article on Furs and the Fur Trade, communicated by the Secretary. The historical account of the use of furs by various nations is extremely interesting, and it shows how long national characteristics are preserved by a people after the circumstances that originally caused their adoption have been totally changed:—

"There is, however, one remarkable fact in relation to the subject now before us, in which all antiquity, as far as it speaks at all, concurs; namely, that the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates and of the Nile, as well as Syria from the sea-coast eastward to the great desert that parts it from Mesopotamia, were occupied by highly civilized nations, subject for the most part to absolute monarchs, and clothed in fabrics of cotton, linen, and wool; while the grassy, treeless plains extending from the Aral sea westward as far as the mouths of the Danube, along the northern border of the Caspian and Euxine seas, and the intervening chain of the Caucasus, were occupied, or rather traversed, by independent tribes of horsemen shepherds, clothed in skins and fur."

Compare this account with the catalogue of the nations that still prefer furs for dress or ornament, and it will be manifest how little "the changes of realm and chances of time" have been able to effect in the alteration of traditional observances:—

"The chief demand and consumption of furs is now among the nations of Slavonian and Tartar extraction, either inhabiting their native seats, or retaining their original love of furred clothing though settled in countries where the physical necessity for their use no longer exists. Such are the Poles, the Russians, the Chinese, the Persians, the Turks; even under the burning sun of Syria and Egypt, the Bucharians, and the various tribes of independent Tartars."

More interest, however, attaches to the history and state of the English fur-trade. The following is Mr. Aikin's account of its origin:—

"Two commercial events, however, have at different times made London one of the centres

of the fur-trade. The first of these was the discovery by Richard Chancellour, in 1553, of the passage by sea to the northern coast of European Russia, and especially that great gulf, commonly called the White Sea, at the bottom of which Archangel was afterwards built. Russia was at that time a barbarous country, moderately populous, pressed on the one hand by the Poles, and on the other by the Tartars, and bounded on the east by the Uralian mountains. Its sovereigns, at that time content with the title of Tsar, or duke, reigned at Moscow. The arrival of Chancellour was considered as an important event. The duke invited him to his capital, patronized him, and allowed the company of merchants, by whom he was sent out, to establish two or three trading posts on the White Sea, to have a warehouse at Moscow, and to send out from thence trading parties to the shores of the Caspian and into Persia. Manufactures of silk and of woollen formed the chief exports, and among the imports were furs."

The second event to which he alludes is the discovery of Hudson's Bay, which enabled the English to rival the Canadian trade of the French; and when that country was subdued, to secure its temporary monopoly. The present state of the trade is so fully described in the following extract, that it is not necessary to add a single word of comment:—

"While the fur-bearing animals were thus attracting the commercial enterprise of the French and British, from the eastern to the western shore of North America, the same motive and the same results were exciting and rewarding the perseverance of the Russians, and drawing them continually forwards from the Ural Mountains, the western boundary of northern Asia, to the sea of Kamtschatka, which washes its eastern shore. The conquest of Siberia, and its annexation to the Russian empire, took place in 1640, thirty years before the incorporation of the Hudson's Bay Company. The Kuril and Aleutian isles, in the sea that divides Asia from North America, were discovered and taken possession of in 1745, by which the fur of the sea-otter was first introduced into commerce, and which, while rare, obtained incredible prices in the Chinese market. In 1780 the fur-bearing animals had already become scarce in Siberia, while the demand continued undiminished in the Asiatic markets; this led to new exertions; and when Cook, in the course of his exploratory circumnavigation, was engaged in surveying the western coast of America north of Nootka, he found that the Russians had already, on some points, opened an intercourse for furs with the inhabitants. The sea-otters obtained by the crews of his ships, sold in Kamtschatka, for the Chinese market, for prices which astonished them, and which gave birth soon after to British and American expeditions to the same quarter, and even excited some signs of spirit in the sluggishness of the Spaniards of Monterey and California. The Russians, however, being nearest and in force, and stimulated by commercial jealousy and national ambition, established a colony on the American coast, and now possess the north-western extremity of that continent. Thus the fur traders of different nations, the one setting out from the western boundary of Asia, and the others from the eastern boundary of America, have traversed these two great continents, and now find themselves face to face on the western shores of America. No new fur-ground remains to be explored; and, although the supplies of this commodity may not, for some years, diminish in any very sensible degree, yet it is evident that the summit of the trade has been reached, and perhaps overpassed.

The fur-trade of England is both an importing and exporting one. The imports for our own

consumption are blue and white fox from Norway and Iceland, marten and fitch from Germany and France, bears silver and gray, sables, ermines, squirrels, hares, and lambskins, from Russia; seals from the southern ocean, and chinchilla from South America.

"The imports, partly for home consumption and partly for re-exportation, are the furs of North America. Several of the smaller animals which were imported from Canada while that colony was in possession of the French, and which formed the *menu pelletterie* of the traders, are found to be no longer worth the trouble and expense of collecting; these were chiefly ermine and squirrel, but considerably inferior in quality to similar skins from Russia."

We trust that the Society will go on and prosper. We strongly recommend those in authority at the Adelphi to exert themselves, and establish branch societies in our manufacturing towns, and thus make itself known to workmen of every class and condition. Many little niceties of construction are even now known to practical mechanics, the knowledge of which will perish with them; many more would probably be invented if a spirit of emulation were excited: but for both purposes, the preservation of what is known, and the incitement to new exertions, the Society must visit, not merely the shop of the master and the barrack premises of the manufacturer—its existence must be felt in the shed of the labourer and the garret of the artisan.

Letters and Journals of Lord Byron; with Notices of his Life. By Thomas Moore. 3rd edit. 3 vols. 8vo. London, 1833. Murray.

ON Moore's Life nothing now remains to be said in the way of criticism; it has taken its permanent rank in our literature; but how much an octavo edition was wanted to perfect Byron's works on the library shelves of those who are curious and choice in such matters, none can know better than ourselves, who have received at least half a dozen letters within six months on this subject. If, however, the publication has been long delayed, it will be the more welcome, and it is certainly most deserving of that welcome. These volumes are typographically beautiful, and illustrated with no less than forty-four engravings, all of great beauty and interest.

BRITISH LIBRARY.—VOL. I.

White's Natural History of Selborne; with Notes, by Capt. Thomas Browne, F.L.S. London: Orr.

WE announced this extraordinarily cheap publication in our last number, and have now only to make a few extracts from the curious and interesting Notes added to the original work by the present well-known editor. We shall make our selection at hazard, as the subjects are unconnected.

Migration of Woodcocks.—"The woodcocks arrive in Great Britain in flocks; some of them in October, but not in great numbers till November and December. They generally take advantage of the night, being seldom seen to come before sunset.

"The time of their arrival depends considerably on the prevailing winds; for adverse gales always detain them, they not being able to struggle with the boisterous squalls of the Northern Ocean. The greater part of them leave this country about the latter end of February, or beginning of March, always pairing

before they set out. They retire to the coast, and, if the wind be fair, set out immediately; but, if contrary, they are often detained in the neighbouring woods and thickets for some time. So well skilled are these birds in atmospheric changes, that the instant a fair wind springs up they seize the opportunity; and where the sportsman has seen hundreds in one day, he will not find even a single bird the next.

"At the Landsend, Cornwall, every fisherman and peasant can tell, from the temperature of the air, the week, if not the day, on which the woodcocks will arrive on the coast. They come in prodigious flocks, which reach the shore at the same time, and from their state of exhaustion, induced by their long flight, they are easily knocked down, or caught by dogs. A short respite soon invigorates them, so that they are enabled to pursue their inland course, but till thus recruited they are an easy prey, and produce no small profit to those who live in the neighbourhood."

Extraordinary Springs.—"There are no rivulets, or springs, in the island of Ferro, the west-most of the Canaries, except on a part of the beach, which is nearly inaccessible. To supply the place of a fountain, however, Nature, ever bountiful, has bestowed upon this island a species of tree, unknown to all other parts of the world. It is of moderate size, and its leaves are straight, long, and evergreen. Around its summit a small cloud perpetually rests, which so drenches the leaves with moisture, that they continually distil upon the ground a stream of fine clear water. To these trees, as to perennial springs, the inhabitants of Ferro resort; and are thus supplied with an abundance of water for themselves and for their cattle."

The Eagle.—"Mr. Lloyd mentions, that in Sweden, the eagle sometimes strikes so large a pike, and so firmly do his talons hold their grasp, that he is carried under water by the superior gravity of the pike, and drowned. Dr. Mullenbog says, he himself saw an enormous pike with an eagle fixed to its back by his talons, lying dead on a piece of ground which had been overflowed by a river, and from which the water had subsided.

"This naturalist also gives an account of a conflict between an eagle and a pike, which a gentleman saw on the river Gotha, near Wenersborg. In this case, when the eagle first seized the pike, he soared a short distance into the air, but the weight and struggling of the fish together, soon obliged the eagle to descend. Both fell into the water and disappeared. Presently, however, the eagle again came to the surface, uttering the most piercing cries, and making apparently every endeavour to extricate his talons, but in vain; and, after a violent struggle was carried under water."

The Song of Birds.—"Male birds procure mates by the power of their song. Hence it may be inferred, that if a confined bird had acquired the song of another species, without retaining any notes of its own, and was set at liberty, the probability is, that it would never find a mate of its own species; and, even although it did, there is no reason to doubt but the young of that bird would be devoid of its native notes.

"There has been much controversy among naturalists, whether the notes of birds are innate or acquired; the greater part of which has originated amongst those who argue on general principles without experimenting. We have ourselves instituted these experiments, and have hence proved clearly, that the song of birds is innate. We have brought up repeatedly broods of young chaffinches, and they invariably sang their native notes when they arrived at maturity; and this without the possibility of their hearing the song of their kindred. Nay, on the contrary, they were brought up in the same

room with a gray linnet, and never acquired any of its notes; but had their peculiar notes, which cannot possibly be mistaken."

Attachment of Animals.—"There were two Hanoverian horses, which had assisted in drawing the same gun during the whole Peninsular war, in the German brigade of artillery. One of them met his death in an engagement; after which the survivor was piqueted as usual, and his food was brought to him. He refused to eat, and kept constantly turning his head round to look for his companion, and sometimes calling him by a neigh. Every care was taken, and all means that could be thought of were adopted, to make him eat, but without effect. Other horses surrounded him on all sides, but he paid no attention to them; his whole demeanour indicated the deepest sorrow, and he died from hunger, not having tasted a bit from the time his companion fell."

Fishing Cats.—"Many instances have been recorded of cats catching fish. Mr. Moody, of Jesmond, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, had a cat in 1829, which had been in his possession for some years, that caught fish with great assiduity, and frequently brought them home alive! Besides minnows and eels, she occasionally carried home pichards, one of which six inches long, was found in her possession in August, 1827. She also contrived to teach a neighbour's cat to fish; and the two have been seen together watching by the Uis for fish. At other times, they have been seen at opposite sides of the river, not far from each other, on the look out for their prey."

"The following still more extraordinary circumstance of a cat fishing in the sea appeared in the *Plymouth Journal*, June, 1828:—

"There is now at the battery on the Devil's Point, a cat, which is an expert catcher of the finny tribe, being in the constant habit of diving into the sea, and bringing up the fish alive in her mouth, and depositing them in the guard-room, for the use of the soldiers. She is now seven years old, and has long been a useful caterer. It is supposed that her pursuit of the water-rats first taught her to venture into the water, to which it is well known puss has a natural aversion. She is as fond of the water as a Newfoundland dog, and takes her regular peregrinations along the rocks at its edge, looking out for her prey, ready to dive for them at a moment's notice."

Migratory Birds.—"It has been generally believed that the migratory songsters, both old and young, return to their native haunts in the breeding season. From this circumstance it is believed, that if any of these could be bred beyond the ordinary limits of their incubation, they would return in the following season to their birth place. Impressed with this belief, Sir John Sinclair, bart. long known for his patriotism, commissioned the late Mr. Dickson of Covent Garden, to purchase for him as many nightingales' eggs as he could procure, at a shilling each. This was accordingly done, the eggs carefully packed in wool, and transmitted to Sir John by the mail. Sir John employed several men to find, and take care of, the nests of several robins, in places where the eggs might be deposited and hatched with security. The robins' eggs were removed, and replaced by those of the nightingale, which were all sat upon, hatched in due time, and the young brought up by the foster-parents. The songsters flew, when fully fledged, and were observed, for some time afterwards, near the places where they were incubated. In September the usual migratory period, they disappeared, and never returned to the place of their birth."

Hodden Grey.—"The cloth peculiar to Scotland, called *hodden grey*, was a manufacture from the natural fleece; and throughout the domestic farming districts, the housewives still use their influence to have one black lamb re-

tained among the flock, as the wool takes on the dye more kindly, and is indeed often spun into thread for the stockings of the family, without receiving any artificial tinge."

The Climate of Britain.—"The climate of Britain, it is very generally believed, has deteriorated by becoming much more changeable than it was sixty years ago. This has, with much probability, been attributed to the extent of planting, to the introduction of green crops, and abolition of fallows in an improved system of agriculture. Mr. Murray is of opinion, that trees, by condensing the moisture of the air in foggy weather, materially affect the climate, and that thickly wooded countries must be colder and more humid than naked savannahs. Trees are, therefore, it would seem, ready conductors of aerial electricity, the climate being improved when woods are cleared away, and becoming more moist by planting. This fact receives corroboration from the history of our own country, as well as from that of North America."

Crocodiles in Scotland.—"In Corncockle Moor, Dumfriesshire, there is a sandstone quarry, on the slabs of which are distinctly imprinted the tracks of the foot marks of animals. These were discovered in the year 1812. They differ in size from that of a hare's paw to the hoof of a poney. On a slab, which forms part of the wall of a summer-house, in Dr. Duncan's garden, at the Manse of Bothwell, there are twenty-four impressions, twelve of the right, and as many of the left foot. Professor Buckland considers, that the animals must have been crocodiles or tortoises."

Stags' Horns.—"There is a curious fact, not generally known, which is, that at one period the horns of stags grew into a much greater number of ramifications than at the present day. Some have supposed this to have arisen from the greater abundance of food, and from the animal having more repose, before population became so dense. In some individuals, these multiplied to an extraordinary extent. There is one in the museum of Hesse Cassel with twenty-eight antlers. Baron Cuvier mentions one with sixty-six, or thirty-three on each horn."

Eels.—"There are no eels in the Danube, nor in any of its tributary streams. The rivers of Siberia, though large and numerous, are destitute of them."

There are hundreds of other notes, and these, added to the admitted worth of the original work, illustrated with numberless wood-cuts, all to be had for three shillings! What have either Society done equal to this?

Miss Edgeworth's Novels and Tales, I—X.
London: Baldwin & Co.

THERE is no recent publication that we have received with such unmixed pleasure, as this new and beautiful edition of the works of Miss Edgeworth. The cheap re-publication of such works mark an important era in our literary history: small profits are now found more remunerative than extravagant prices, and persons of moderate fortune proved to be as valuable patrons as the wealthy and the titled. Success in such speculations is a proper subject of national congratulation, for it is a proof that the public taste is still guided by sound principles, and that, notwithstanding its numerous capricious aberrations, works of real utility will not appeal to it in vain. Many years have elapsed since Miss Edgeworth published the tales which are here collected; and during that period she has had the proud consciousness of having been

the moral instructor of her generation, since no one ever read her works that did not rise wiser and better from the perusal. The characteristic distinction of Miss Edgeworth's writings is, that they are works of action rather than sentiment—that they appeal always to the judgment, and never to the passions—and that even in their pathos they are addressed more to the reason than the feelings. There is consequently an evenness in the interest of her writings; they are never tame; neither, on the other hand, are they ever very stimulating. Most of her incidents and all her characters belong to the realities of life; they seem to have actually formed part of our own experience. Rarely has an imagination so powerful as hers been subjected to such stern and rigid control; "the reins never fall on the neck of the coursers," to use Curran's metaphor; judgment never withdraws its guidance for a moment; and even when perilous tracks of invention are entered, we see that there is caution proportioned to the danger. The Edgeworth Novels form a class by themselves. Utility is evidently, perhaps too evidently in some cases, their direct object; and no writings show more completely to what a great extent the agreeable can be combined with the instructive.

But the greatest merit of the Edgeworth Tales is their perfect truth; descriptions, incidents, and characters, are not merely natural, they are absolute realities; this is especially the case with Irish life, of which Miss Edgeworth was the first delineator, and, notwithstanding all subsequent imitations, continues to be the best. We sometimes confound our recollection of events with the memory of her tales; for instance, we feel thoroughly persuaded that we knew personally the successive owners of Castle Rackrent, and that we have been driven by the reckless but gay-hearted postillion recorded in the 'Absentee.'

Starke's Traveller's Guide. 8th edition. London: Murray.

ONCE before, when the fifth, sixth, or seventh edition of this work came before us, we gave it as our opinion, founded on considerable experience, that it *was*, and it may therefore be fairly presumed that it *is*, the very best traveller's guide to Italy, that ever came under our notice. For the rest of Europe, it is good as an outline, which must be filled in with local aids.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Townsend's Chronological Arrangement of the Bible.—"We have here the result of much learning, and a diligent comparison of Scripture with Scripture; but we doubt the propriety of tempting the ordinary readers of the Bible to forsake the venerable standard of truth as the fathers of the faith have left it, for this or any other work of a similar kind. The study of Scripture is the only study which many feel themselves necessitated to pursue; but the attention which it demands, and the labour of comparison to which it leads, conduce, of themselves, to the strengthening of the faculties; and we do not think it expedient that those, who have no other reason for intellectual exertion, should have a Bible put into their hands which they may read through without the necessity of turning back to a single page. This opinion, however, as to the expediency of the plan, does not affect our esteem for the erudition which Mr. Townsend has shown in its execution; and the work, though we do

not wish to see it in common use, may be examined occasionally with profit.

'*Bishop Mant on the Happiness of the Blessed.*'—A mild and amiable spirit characterizes every page of this little work; and we have no doubt that there is many a mind to which it may prove a most acceptable boon. It treats of subjects on which, as we have said in noticing a somewhat similar work a few weeks back, we cannot safely enter; but its scriptural character secures it against the intermixture of curious fancies with consolatory truths; and we trust the benevolent feelings in which it had its origin will be amply satisfied by the success of the publication.

'*Slade's Sermons.*'—Mr. Slade is a useful instructor. His sermons are plain, but not deficient in earnestness—practical, but showing the necessary dependence of practice on belief. We think, however, that he has spoken too briefly, and too much in common conventional language on some subjects of vital importance. Though we are glad, therefore, to find what we do in his pages, we think it more than probable that he will discover the necessity we have hinted at, of devoting, in his future discourses, a larger space to the investigation and establishment of fundamental truths—that is, as they stand out from the general applications of christian morality, compacting, and, at the same time, particularizing the system.

'*Smith's Letters on National Religion.*'—Mr. Smith writes warmly and eloquently, but he is one of those controversialists who so broadly accuse their opponents of want of honesty, penetration, and every desirable quality of head and heart, that we are constantly disposed to think they are fighting with imaginary enemies, and not the living practical men of the day. The very first page of the volume is a tissue of arrogant pettishness, and would turn most persons with a feeling of vexation from what follows. We are sorry that this is the case. A man of sense writing with the fury of an inexperienced sciolist, (Mr. Smith's favourite word), is a lamentable sight; and, we trust, when he next approaches the discussion of those momentous points on which he treats, that he will speak, though not less firmly, with much more temperance and charity.

'*A Harmony of the Four Gospels.*'—This work is intended principally as an accompaniment to Messrs's Historical and Geographical Chart of Christ's Ministry; it possesses, however, much substantive merit, and is the best key to the chronology of the Gospel History that we have seen.

'*Charter-House Prize Exercises, 1814—1832.*'—Prize essays and poems are proverbially worthless—Heaven forbid that any of ours should ever rise in judgment against us! It is not fair to publish the first efforts of a youthful aspirant, writing according to dictation, on a prescribed subject. Some of the pieces in this collection, however, possess more than an ordinary share of merit; we were particularly pleased with Lushington's very ingenious Latin poem on steam-vessels, and Brockhurst's English verses on Carthage.

'*On the Immortality of the Soul, a Latin Poem,* by Hawkins Browne, M.D.'—This poem has been republished, with the hope that it may be adopted as an introductory book in classical schools; it is utterly unfit for any such purposes.

'*Tables for Planting and Valuing Underwood.*'—A very useful little manual of tables, which will be found a great acquisition to all persons employed in agriculture and the management of wood-lands.

'*Etymological Guide to the English Language.*'—A very useful compilation, well calculated to teach junior students the structure of the Eng-

lish language, and which even advanced scholars may consult with advantage.

'*The Genius of the French Language,* by H. Holt.'—The exercises in this volume have been selected and arranged with considerable skill, but the world scarcely wants any new elementary works on the French language.

'*A Selection of Questions and Exercises,* by the Rev. R. Simson.'—This little work appears to have been published principally with the design of exhibiting to the world a specimen of "the improved system of education," adopted in "Colebrooke House Academy, Islington." We trust that the school will not be estimated by the book, for it is one of the most trashy compilations that we have seen in the whole course of our critical existence.

'*An Arithmetical Catechism,* by the same.'—Not quite so bad as the preceding.

ORIGINAL PAPERS

SONG.

BY H. F. CHORLEY.

O, let me give my heart away,
I've lived too long alone,
Until my spirit, once so gay,
Hath dull and joyless grown;
The smile hath faded from my cheek,
The fount of Hope is dry,
I scarcely have the heart to speak,
Then love me, or I die.
I've lived a hermit life too long
'Mid rocks and lonely trees,
My only thoughts a changing throng
Of aimless fantasies.
But weary of these wanderings vain,
For human things I sigh;
O give me to my kind again,
And love me, or I die.
I'll be the slave to watch your rest,
To work your will by day,
And every scarcely looked behest
With thankful haste obey,
If to my suit, at last you'll make
One sign of kind reply:
Then hear me, for sweet pity's sake,
And love me, or I die.

MR. LOCKHART AND MR. BULWER.

[WITHOUT agreeing in all points with our correspondent, we give insertion to his able communication, because he puts the general question in its true light. If the style of Mr. Bulwer's letter is to be adopted on all occasions of literary difference, the quiet field of literature will become a bear-garden.]

To the Editor of the Athenæum.

SIR,—A letter is inserted in the last number of the *New Monthly Magazine*, signed "The Author of Pelham," and addressed "to the Editor of the *Quarterly Review*," which calls for strong reprehension. Such a letter, addressed by Mr. Bulwer to Mr. Lockhart, is, regarding the position filled by those gentlemen, greatly derogatory from the dignity of our literature;—and few will dispute the fact, that in its present state,—all its chiefs departing one by one from the scene of effort, if not of existence, leaving no hope of worthy successors to the thrones thus vacated,—the literature of England has not much dignity to spare.

As in the following remarks there is no unfriendly intellect to be succored at,—no sensitive feelings to be lacerated,—no patrician mediocrity to be extolled,—no struggling heart to be bruised by the heel of vulgar insolence—I do not address myself to a weekly publication which it is unnecessary here to name. No; I address myself to the *ATHENÆUM*, in the belief that its columns will not be closed against a frank and fearless commentary on such a letter as that under consideration, providing always that such commentary be couched in the language of courtesy. He must have observed the tone of remark by which the *ATHENÆUM* is distinguished, who could contemplate the possibility of its inserting an uncourteous criticism on the productions of any man;—and, in the present instance, I have to disclaim any feeling calculated to suggest such a criticism on Mr. Bulwer's letter. That gentleman is unknown to me; but, not one whit more so than Mr. Lockhart, I cannot boast of any acquaintance, however slight,

with either. I consider Mr. Bulwer's letter merely as a document addressed by the Editor of the *New Monthly Magazine* to the Editor of the *Quarterly Review*. It is neither my right, nor my desire, to stand forward as Mr. Lockhart's defender. Unless the learned gentleman be greatly misrepresented, he is every way competent to the task of self-defence. But whether he be so or not is, Sir, no affair of ours. We have only to do with the probable effect of the splenetic squabble thus virulently commenced in the high places of periodical literature; and you will perhaps agree in the opinion, that its effect must of necessity prove most mischievous and disgraceful.

In the outset, I cannot refrain from remarking, that it would have been more in accordance with Mr. Bulwer's recent, and somewhat elaborate testimony to the genius of Sir Walter Scott, had he abstained from a no less elaborate tissue of abuse against one standing in Mr. Lockhart's near relationship to the departed poet. Without any exaggeration, it may be asserted, that the hearts of nations are yet moved by a pure and noble sorrow for the death of Sir Walter Scott. I do not say that this solemn circumstance should have deprived Mr. Bulwer of the right of resenting any injury, or slight, with which he may have conceived Mr. Lockhart to be chargeable; but I do say, that it would have justified a decent and considerate delay. The fame of Mr. Bulwer can hardly have been in such imminent danger as to require such furious measures for its protection. Indeed, if his fame cannot support itself, it must be of a very perishable quality. Nor, under any circumstances, could the calling the son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott an adventurer, a corrupt lawyer, a bad author, and a fool, be an advisable course either for the attainment or extension of literary fame. Such sounds harmonize but ill with the tones of studied grief for the death of Sir Walter Scott; and more than this, they are sounds conveying no true significance. The fact of Mr. Bulwer calling Mr. Lockhart a fool, is no greater proof of the folly of the latter than of the wisdom of the former. The term, "obscure adventurer," is about as applicable to the Editor of the *New Monthly* as to the Editor of the *Quarterly*; i.e. it is by no means applicable to either. Had Mr. Bulwer made proper inquiries, he would have found that Mr. Lockhart is a gentleman of an ancient family, which enjoys a landed inheritance in Scotland. Mr. Lockhart's being the son of a Scottish clergyman,—a class of men, for the most part, distinguished by piety, learning, and all the purest constituent elements of a truly clerical character, rather than by any great worldly advantages,—may have led Mr. Bulwer to this, under all circumstances, injudicious and highly-censurable sneer. In the present instance, it is wholly inapplicable. As well might the Editor of the *New Monthly Magazine* be called an obscure adventurer, for coming from a particular county in England, as the Editor of the *Quarterly*, for coming from a particular county of Scotland. Dr. Channing, in one of his admirable discourses, laments that mankind should be so slow in arriving at the great truth, that "what a man is, not what he has," should guide us in estimating his true value. Assuredly, what a man "is," and not "whence he comes," is the chief consideration in judging of his scientific or literary claims; and Mr. Bulwer practically enforces this truth, for though he degrades himself by an absurd attempt to deteriorate Mr. Lockhart, on the score of "whence he came," the great aim of his letter is to prove that the Editor of the *Quarterly* is, intellectually considered, a person unworthy of the regard in which he has hitherto been held. How far Mr. Bulwer makes out his case, in this respect, we have now to inquire. Not, however, as I have already said, for the purpose of defending Mr. Lockhart, but for the purpose of justly estimating the animus pervading Mr. Bulwer's letter.

Any logical arrangement of remarks in reference to so confused and passionate an epistle, its author can hardly expect. He himself says, "Sir, it gives me pleasure not to reply to you, but to display you." That there is a slight error here, any dispassionate reader of the letter must acknowledge. Mr. Bulwer abuses Mr. Lockhart, but he displays himself. None of the "penny-a-line-men," to whom the honourable gentleman loves so pompously, yet so pettily to allude, would condescend to use the terms selected by Mr. Bulwer for the purpose of vilifying Mr. Lockhart. Mr. Bulwer has suffered himself to be betrayed into a line of attack, which though signed by 'The Author of Pelham,' can never by possibility form part of 'The Adventures of a Gentleman.' He has furnished a proof, (were any such now wanting,) that the boast of an ancient lineage and the possession of a sounding name are not, of themselves, sufficient to constitute a gentlemanlike character. And more than this Sir,—when we read the opening of his attack on Mr. Lockhart in these terms—

"Sir—there is that in your style which usually betrays you! Your writings are impressed with a stamp of smallness, peculiarly their own"—when Sir, we read this opening, are we not reminded of the author's own prefaces, dedications, and epistles? Does Mr. Bulwer suppose that the literary world can have forgotten his almost impertinent letter to Mr. Ficken, on the subject of *Fraser's Magazine*? Was there any stamp of greatness there? I, for one, think not. I think that letter as little creditable to the writer, as the one now in question. The curse of the coterie is on every line of both. That curse is an insatiable yearning for display, and a corresponding hatred of all who by silence,

by remonstrance, or by ridicule, may mortify the false appetite of an all-craving vanity. Under the influence of this mental malediction, Mr. Bulwer descends to hypercriticisms on Mr. Lockhart's style of composition, which are utterly unworthy of the talents and station of the 'Author of Pelham.' The carelessness of composition, even if proved, is by no means conclusive as to the charge which the writer wishes to establish. Mr. Lockhart may be an inelegant writer, without being an unjust critic. With no great solicitude as to the style of his criticisms, he may yet be most scrupulous as to their honesty and probable influence. Then as to the self-gratulatory passage, in which Mr. Bulwer mentions the praise of Goethe and Scott, as evidence of the injustice, as well as unimportance of the censure of Lockhart, of what weight is it, when we consider that Sir Walter's generous nature never withheld words of kindness and encouragement from any man of letters, and that Goethe praised Prince Puckler Muskau, in a way to provoke the jealousy or lower the exaltation of the 'Author of Pelham'? "The praises heaped on the poetry of Miss Collins," on the dramatic excellence of "Francis the First," &c. &c., are adduced as further proofs of the errors of the *Quarterly*. On referring to the article on the poems of Mary Collins, I find them represented as what they really are, and nothing more—a curious intellectual product elicited under peculiarly unfavourable circumstances. They were also mentioned as no uninteresting accompaniment to the previously noticed poem by Lucretia Davidson. The notice of these latter in the *Quarterly Review*, is generally understood to have proceeded from the editor's pen; and he who could rise from the perusal of that review, with no other feelings than those of captious and verbal criticism, can hardly have permitted the better qualities of his nature to predominate. Mr. Lockhart is a Tory, and the editor of the leading Tory periodical—yet I question much, whether the most cosmopolitan liberal could consider the poetic talents and early doom of the American girl, in a spirit of purer delicacy or more enlightened estimate, than dignifies the criticism in the *Quarterly Review*. Nor should another of Mr. Lockhart's literary efforts be forgotten. He has written the *Life of Burns*—and though many will think with that great critic Mr. Thomas Carlyle, that the character of Burns has not yet been considered under its most striking poetical aspect, still the "labour of love" undertaken by Mr. Lockhart for the honour of his countryman, has been well fulfilled. To me, who have no personal feeling about Mr. Lockhart either one way or the other, there appears, I confess, a beautiful moral fitness in the relative of Sir Walter Scott writing the life of Robert Burns, and inscribing the result of his labours to James Hogg and Allan Cunningham. That fact taken as we find it, is creditable to the Editor of the *Quarterly*. Nor will any one, taking into consideration all the circumstances connected with "Fanny Kemble's feeble tragedy," as Mr. Bulwer calls it, have reason to be very wroth with the reviewer. The tragedy was certainly not of an order to realise the expectations raised by the review. Yet was it a bold and surprising effort, and its encouragement, if somewhat more friendly than discriminating, was an error at all events on the generous side. Could one such error be justified by another, it would not be difficult to quote passages of preposterous laudation of certain literary ladies, who, it must be confessed, pay Mr. Bulwer back in kind, fully illustrating the maxim "on ne loue d'ordinaire que pour s'en louer." It is wonderful to what lengths a zealous self-esteem may lead a man. The *Quarterly Review* is lectured for puffing by the *New Monthly Magazine*. Mr. Colburn must have gazed, when hearing the Editor of his choice denounce "Mr. Murray's back parlour and his coteries as puffing machinery." And to make the denunciation complete in its way, the note containing it thus concludes—"But perhaps, in the pithy proverb, the *Quarterly Review* considers its own dirt no dirt." Never was proverb more uselessly quoted. Its applicability to the *Quarterly* may be a point of dispute, but its home-telling truth as to the *New Monthly* has long been settled, "beyond all surmises."

Mr. Bulwer is similarly unfortunate in many other of his attacks. For instance, he charges Mr. Lockhart with his having, in 'Peter's Letters to his Kinsfolk,' "praised the regularity of his own features." This may be reprehensible—unpardonable if you will—but is Mr. Lockhart a solitary instance? Are there no elaborate self-portraits in the works of his assailant to justify an avoidance of this particular point of attack? But it is unnecessary to quote further. Every sentence of Mr. Bulwer's letter is "impressed with a stamp of smallness peculiarly his own." And the one great crime to which Mr. Lockhart stands indebted for such fierce abuse is, as any man of common discernment must perceive, that he (Mr. L.) has not sufficiently praised Mr. Bulwer. This—and not the long array of trifling errors in composition—is the crime for which the *Quarterly* is made to suffer. Mr. Bulwer is inexcusable. Each particular fly is broken on its separate wheel—the executioner talks of the crime, and revels in the punishment—but every bystander perceives the true cause of Mr. Bulwer's energy in laying about him thus unmercifully. Whatever Mr. Bulwer hopes to gain, his antagonist can hardly lose much in such a conflict. He may be guilty on every point of composition charged against him, and yet stand pretty well with the world. "The King can do no wrong" is a *Quarterly Review* maxim, in which few can now-a-days concur; but with reference to Mr. Lockhart's literary government, we

may say that it is safe enough, till it shall be proved to have done some greater wrong than is to be found in the devoted phrases so furiously assailed by Mr. Bulwer.

In the letter here considered, as in every production in which the man rather than the author appears—this is the case where Mr. Bulwer speaks in his personal character, he seems to be labouring under a nervous dread of being depreciated by others. There is no disposition to depreciate the honourable gentleman—at all events, none which, were he to trust to his own talents, he might not defy. Still, the opinion entertained by others of Mr. Bulwer, may possibly fall somewhat short of that entertained by Mr. Bulwer of himself. I have endeavoured by a perusal of his works, and by an observation of his more public life, to form a fair judgment of him; and, speaking of him as freely as of other public men, I should, if asked a question on the subject, express my conviction that he is a man of considerable, but by no means of commanding talents—one who may by his influence and acquirements adorn many of the paths of human effort, but who is not calculated to create a crisis in literature or to lead a party in politics; and if this opinion be less favourable than Mr. Bulwer, in the unerring sense of power, may feel that he deserves, what need he care for criticisms quarterly, monthly, or weekly? He who has dwelt among the "quiet haunts," and with a lofty and just self-consciousness waited, till, almost being silent, Fame sought him in his seclusion, and proclaimed his glory—this high genius thus admonishes his brethren:

If thou indeed derive thy light from Heaven,
Shine, poet, in thy place, and be content.

And this is an admonition worthy of attention from all. It will secure a purer source of action than that "Vanity, whose root is always venomous"—which keeps men in a worse than feminine fluster as to what is thought and said of them, forgetful of the truth, that "it is only the despicable who have the dread of being despised." This dread was the secret of the lamentable business of Byron, and it is largely into the spirit of such letters as that of the author of 'Pelham.' It has made many a clever man ridiculous, but has never had any part in leading one to greatness. And Mr. Bulwer must rather underrate than overrate his powers, if he cannot afford to let critics and coteries talk of him as they will. In this indifference true courage may be said to consist. The furious trade, and studied abuse, of such letters as that in the *New Monthly*, are as wanting in courage as in courtesy. If people must have a passage of arms together, let them act on Sheridan's suggestion—"Let their courage be as keen, but as polished as their swords."

At the risk of trespassing on your indulgence, I would, in conformity with the spirit under which these remarks were commenced, say a word on the sneering and affected terms in which Mr. Bulwer and others are perpetually alluding to the poorer class of labourers in the fields of literature. More than once in the letter of the *New Monthly* the writer is chargeable with such allusions. They are in the worst taste.

The author of 'Pelham' is a great employer of the term Penny-a-line man. Whether he be doubting the existence of *Fraser's Magazine*, or addressing Mr. Picken, or prefacing a novel with a statement of his personal feelings, or noticing the lives or deaths of men to whom, it may be, Nature has given less talents, but at all events to whom Fortune has been less propitious than to himself, we are favoured with his penny-a-line allusion. It is difficult to know the precise import of the term as used by this gentleman; but, the general impression left by a perusal of his successive touches in this way, is, that Mr. Bulwer thanks God that he is not like the rest of literary men—i. e. that he is a man of family, a Member of Parliament, and that he gets more guineas than many others labouring in the same vineyard. On this latter point, I may remark, that Mr. Bulwer, like all other literary men, writes for as much money as he can get—and, whether this be a guinea-a-line or penny-a-line, depends not so much on the talents of the writer as on the greater or less want of money, in which he may happen to find himself. If he can afford to be, or rather to seem, indifferent to the question of payment, his price will be proportionately high. If he be understood to want money, then he will find himself in the publisher's list of those who must take what they can get, and he will be paid accordingly. Mournful instances of the truth of this could readily be furnished.

Thus we see, that this often-quoted seer, if it apply to remuneration, is in every other instance an impotent contemptible on inquiry; if it apply to station, it will as little bear the test. What are Mr. Bulwer's claims to conduct the *New Monthly Magazine*? Will he corroborate the testimony of his enemies so far as to say, that he owes this post to the influence, real or supposed, which a seat in Parliament may have given him in the eyes of his publisher? If this be the case, then, indeed, he is at liberty to out-Brumel all other performers in the not very recondite art of ridiculing the horrid common people. But if, on the other hand, Mr. Bulwer owes a profitable sinecure in literature to his labours, past and present; if he be one of a class of men, whose pursuits he deems it not derogatory to share, so long as they prove peculiarly advantageous, his sneers at the craft, &c. &c. can hardly tell with much effect. He is an unskilful misrepresentor, or suffering, he may be sure of being honoured with an insulting remark from some one her f the

guinea-a-page men. Does he sink under his trials, or does he fall a victim to his struggles, or it may be to his errors, a succession of sickening sentences on the dangers surrounding a literary career, and the great importance of regular habits, is sure to be disposed of; and some popinjay or other will talk to you most learnedly of his pharmacæ-specifics for the inward bruises of a broken spirit. Are, then, the griefs, the strivings, or, if you will it, the passionate errors of manhood to be eternally judged by the frivolous estimate of flourishing mediocrity? It is indeed a high and happy excellence, when a man, under all circumstances, adverse or toward—

Finds comfort in himself, and in his cause,
And while the mortal mist is gathering draws
His breath in confidence of heaven's applause.

And such a man is assured of his reward. But there are minds less happily tempered, who are not, on that account, fit subjects for impertinent allusion. Misery may have been to them a teacher of stern, yet sterling truths, though self-government, and the beautiful wisdom of unvarying self-denial be not among them. Wordsworth says—

One impulse from a vernal wood
May teach us more of man,
Of moral evil and of good,
Than all the sages can.

This is true;—but there are influences more instructive still. The tear-stained page of mental torture is fraught with a lore not less precious than that derivable from the unsullied volume of natural beauty; and therefore Goethe justly says—

Who never ate his bread in sorrow,
Who never spent night's anxious hours,
Watching and weeping for the morrow,
He knows ye not, ye heavenly powers!

Whether or not Mr. Bulwer and his brethren in prosperity are to be congratulated on having been spared so fierce a trial, will, in a great measure, depend on the vigour of their moral constitution. Yet, be this as it may, it will be no ungenerous forbearance on the part of those who have been favoured by an advantageous position in early life, if, when considering the characters of others in such respects less fortunate, they direct their attention to the obstacles that have been encountered—the sorrows that have been borne—the mock patronage which has been suffered or spurned—and to the much or the little which, all these things notwithstanding, has been performed, rather than to the errors of an impetuous temperament, or the ill-regulated course of an impulsive career. At all events, there will never, it is to be hoped, be wanting men who will take this view, and who will not suffer the worst affectations of aristocracy in the republic of letters. This should not—it shall not be. No foolish individual boast is here expressed. No—I too accurately appreciate my own position and powers to make any such boast! But my trust is in something more encouraging than any individual power or influence. I put my trust in the manliness of our national character, which has never for any great length of time failed to stamp the features of our national literature. We have had a pretty long reign of puffery, affectation, and vanity. In God's name, let us revert to the healthful, and vigorous, and manly spirit. It is the highest incitement to effort, it is the surest guardian of success. That it will soon re-vivify the literature of England, I feel convinced—and you Sir, whose pages have been perseveringly devoted to preparing the public mind for so desirable a change, will have a proportionate gratification in the result of your endeavours. In that gratification all will participate—none more sincerely than one, who from the enthusiastic interest he must ever take in the literature of his country, rather than from any powers or acquirements by which he can hope to add to its stores, ventures to subscribe himself,

"A LITERARY MAN."

12, Waterloo Place,
January 25, 1833.

EPIGRAMS FROM THE ANTHOLOGY.

Epitaph on a good Physician.

When Magnon's soul went down to hell,
The indignant Pluto said,
"Hence! Lord of medicine's potent spell,
You must not raise the dead."

The Blind carrying the Lame.

The blind took up the lame—surprise
Seiz'd all men in the street—
But why? since one had lent the eyes,
T'other might lend the feet.

On Temperance.

Let moderation be your guide,
Excess is sure to pall;
In the old proverb's truth confide,
That too much honey's gall.

ON THE TOTAL DEFECT OF THE QUALITY OF IMAGINATION, OBSERVABLE IN THE WORKS OF MODERN BRITISH ARTISTS.

BY THE AUTHOR OF 'ELIA.'

By a wise falsification, the great masters of painting got at their true conclusions; by not showing the actual appearances, that is, all that was to be seen at any given moment by an indifferent eye, but only what the eye might be supposed to see in the doing or suffering of some portentous action. Suppose the moment of the swallowing up of Pompeii. There they were to be seen—houses, columns, architectural proportions, differences of public and private buildings, men and women at their standing occupations, the diversified thousand postures, attitudes, dresses, in some confusion truly, but physically they were visible. But what eye saw them at that eclipsing moment, which reduces confusion to a kind of unity, and when the senses are upturned from their proprieties, when sight and hearing are a feeling only? A thousand years have passed, and we are at leisure to contemplate the weaver fixed standing at his shuttle, the baker at his oven, and to turn over with antiquarian coolness the pots and pans of Pompeii.

"Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeah, and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon." Who, in reading this magnificent Hebraism, in his conception, sees aught but the heroic son of Nun, with the outstretched arm, and the great and lesser lights obsequious? Doubtless there were to be seen hill and dale, and chariots and horsemen, on open plain, or winding by secret defiles, and all the circumstances and stratagems of war. But whose eyes would have been conscious of this array at the interposition of the synchronic miracle? Yet in the picture of this subject by the artist of the 'Belshazzar's Feast'—no ignoble work neither—the marshalling and landscape of the war is everything, the miracle sinks into an anecdote of the day; and the eye may "dart through rank and file traverse" for some minutes, before it shall discover, among his armed followers, which is *Joshua*! Not modern art alone, but ancient, where only it is to be found if anywhere, can be detected erring, from defect of this imaginative faculty. The world has nothing to show of the preternatural in painting, transcending the figure of Lazarus bursting his grave-clothes, in the great picture at Angerstein's. It seems a thing between two beings. A ghastly horror at itself struggles with newly-apprehending gratitude at second life bestowed. It cannot forget that it was a ghost. It has hardly felt that it is a body. It has to tell of the world of spirits. Was it from a feeling, that the crowd of half-impassioned by-standers, and the still more irrelevant herd of passers-by at a distance, who have not heard, or but faintly have been told of the passing miracle, admirable as they are in design and hue—for it is a glorified work—do not respond adequately to the action—that the single figure of the Lazarus has been attributed to Michael Angelo, and the mighty Sebastian unfairly robbed of the fame of the greater half of the interest? Now that there were not indifferent passers-by within actual scope of the eyes of those present at the miracle, to whom the sound of it had but faintly, or not at all, reached, it would be hardyhood to deny; but would they see them? or can the mind in the conception

of it admit of such unconcerning objects? can it think of them at all? or what associating league to the imagination can there be between the seers, and the seers not, of a presential miracle?

Were an artist to paint upon demand a picture of a Dryad, we will ask whether, in the present low state of expectation, the patron would not, or ought not to be, fully satisfied, with a beautiful naked figure recumbent under wide-stretched oaks? Disseat those woods, and place the same figure among fountains, and falls of pellucid water, and you have a—*Naiad*! Not so in a rough print we have seen after *Julio Romano*, we think—for it is long since—*there*, by no process, with mere change of scene, could the figure have reciprocated characters. Long, grotesque, fantastic, yet with a grace of her own, beautiful in convolution and distortion, linked to her connatural tree, co-twisting with its limbs her own, till both seemed either—these, animated branches; those, disanimated members—yet the animal and vegetable lives sufficiently kept distinct—his Dryad lay—an approximation of two natures, which to conceive, it must be seen; analogous to, not the same with, the delicacies of Ovidian transformations.

To the lowest subjects, and, to a superficial comprehension, the most barren, the Great Masters gave loftiness and fruitfulness. The large eye of genius saw in the meanness of present objects their capabilities of treatment from their relations to some grand Past or Future. How has Raphael—we must still linger about the Vatican—treated the humble craft of the ship-builder, in his 'Building of the Ark'? It is in that scriptural series, to which we have referred, and which, judging from some fine rough old graphic sketches of them which we possess, seem to be of a higher and more poetic grade than even the Cartoons. The dim of sight are the timid and the shrinking. There is a cowardice in modern art. As the Frenchmen, of whom Coleridge's friend made the prophetic guess at Rome, from the beard and horns of the Moses of Michael Angelo collected no inferences beyond that of a He Goat and a Cornuto: so from this subject, of mere mechanic promise, it would instinctively turn away, as from one incapable of investiture with any grandeur. The dock-yards at Woolwich would object derogatory associations. The dépôt at Chatham would be the moat and the beam in its intellectual eye. But not to the nautical preparations in the ship-yards of Civita Vecchia did Raphael look for instructions, when he imagined the Building of the Vessel that was to be conservatory of the wrecks of the species of drowned mankind. In the intensity of the action, he keeps ever out of sight the meanness of the operation. There is the Patriarch, in calm forethought, and with holy prescience, as guided by Heaven, giving directions. And there are his agents—the solitary but sufficient Three—hewing, sawing, every one with the might and earnestness of a Demurgus; under some instinctive rather than technical guidance; giant muscled; every one a Hercules, or liker to those Vulcanian Three, that in the sounding caverns under Mongibello wrought in fire—*Brontes*, and black *Steroes*, and *Pyræmon*. So work the workmen that should repair a world!

(To be continued.)

NELL GWYNNE.

[The great and well-merited success of Mr. Jerrold's Play has awakened recollections in the public, and we feel assured that the following interesting particulars relating to this celebrated woman, her Will especially, which is now first made public, will be acceptable. Some of the "last bequests" in the Codicil are not unworthy of her who, with all her faults, had a heart full of humanity, and who was mainly instrumental in founding Chelsea Hospital. We are indebted for the paper to a Correspondent.]

GRANGER briefly names the year 1687† as the time of the decease of this celebrated actress, and distinguished mistress to Charles II. Upon her retirement from the stage, in 1670, the king built a house for her, in Pall-mall, which was frequently the rendezvous of the monarch and his dissolute associates. Pennant, who describes it at a more recent date, when it was the property of Thomas Brand, Esq. of the Hoo, in Hertfordshire, speaks of its interior magnificence. The walls of the back room on the ground-floor, were entirely covered with looking-glass, as, it was said, the ceiling had been. Over the chimney was her picture.‡ At this house she died in November, 1687; on what day of the month I have not been able to discover. She is said to have been pompously interred in the old church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields; her funeral sermon was preached by Dr. Tenison, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. The burial registers of that parish, upon a recent search, were found, as usual, meagre of information, and merely mention, on the 17th of the above month, "Elinor Gwin." The parochial archives have also been consulted, but no particle of notice is to be found: it was hoped that some monument had been erected to her in the old church, but a search among the marble records of mortality, which since the demolition of the ancient edifice, have been preserved in the vaults below the present church, has proved unsuccessful.

Among the correspondence of Sir George Etherege, with the Scotch College, at Ratisbon, is a letter to him, from his under secretary, Mr. Wigmore, written on the 18th of November, in which he acquaints him—

"Last night was buried Mad. Ellen Gwyn, the D. of St. Alban's mother. She has made a very formal will, and died richer than she seemed to be whilst she lived. She is said to have died piously and penitently; and as she dispensed several charities in her lifetime, so she left several such legacies at her death; but what is much admired is, she aided worth, and left to D. of St. Alban's, *vivia et modis*, about 1,000,000^l. sterling, a great many say more, few less."

The assertion of her dying worth a million of money, is hardly worth attention; the extract from the original letter, by Seward, must have contained an 0 too much. What the Duke of Buckingham told Bishop Burnet, that Nell's first demand on the king was five hundred a year, which he rejected; but that in about four years afterwards, she had managed to obtain more than sixty thousand pounds, goes far to make up the one hundred thousand, which it is more generally allowed she died possessed of.

The will and codicil, now first published, will set at rest many vague stories relative to the disposal of her property, which was bequeathed in the bulk to her only surviving son, Charles Beauclerc, Duke of St. Alban's. The will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Dec. 7, 1687, and the original given up to Sir Robert Sawyer, on the 18th of Feb. following.

† Biogr. Hist. of England, edit. 1769, 4to. vol. ii. p. 443.

‡ Account of London, 1791, 4to. p. 108. He also says, a picture of "her sister was in a third room." This assertion must have been made at hazard, for, after the most assiduous inquiries, no particulars of her kindred occur, beyond the notice of the accident which deprived her of her mother, who was drowned near the Neat-house, Chelsea, in July, 1679.

The documents in the archives of the Court are official copies, with an autograph receipt for the original, by Sir Robert Sawyer, attached. Any reference to the depository of the original, has eluded my particular inquiries.

The Will of Mrs. Ellen Gwynne.

"In the name of God, Amen. I, Ellen Gwynne, of the parish of St. Martin-in-the-fields, and county of Middlesex, spinster, this 9th day of July, anno Domini 1687, do make this my last will and testament, and do revoke all former wills. First, in hopes of a joyful resurrection, I do recommend myself whence I came, my soul into the hands of Almighty God, and my body unto the earth, to be decently buried, at the discretion of my executors, hereinafter named, and as for all such houses, lands, tenements, offices, places, pensions, annuities, and hereditaments whatsoever, in England, Ireland, or elsewhere, wherein I, or my heirs, or any to the use of, or in trust for me or my heirs, hath, have, or may or ought to have, any estate, right, claim or demand whatsoever, of fee-simple or freehold, I give and devise the same all and wholly to my dear natural son, his Grace the Duke of St. Alban's, and to the heirs of his body; and as for all and all manner of my jewels, plate, household stuff, goods, chattels, credits, and other estate whatsoever, I give and bequeath the same, and every part and parcel thereof, to my executors hereafter named, in, upon, and by way of trust for, my said dear son, his executors, administrators, and assigns, and to and for his and their own sole use and peculiar benefit and advantage, in such manner as is hereafter expressed; and I do hereby constitute the Right Hon. Lawrence Earl of Rochester, the Right Hon. Thomas Earl of Pembroke, the Hon. Sir Robert Sawyer, Knight, his Majesty's Attorney General, and the Hon. Henry Sidney, Esq. to be my executors of this my last will and testament, desiring them to please to accept and undertake the execution hereof, in trust as afore-mentioned; and I do give and bequeath to the several persons in the schedule hereunto annexed, the several legacies and sums of money therein expressed or mentioned; and my further will and mind, and anything above notwithstanding, is, that if my said dear son happen to depart this natural life without issue then living, or such issue die without issue, then and in such case, all and all manner of my estate above devised to him, and in case my said natural son die before the age of one-and-twenty years, then also all my personal estate devised to my said executors not before then by my said dear son and his issue, and my said executors, and the executors or administrators of the survivor of them, or by some of them otherwise lawfully and firmly devised or disposed of, shall remain, go, or be to my said executors, their heirs, executors, and administrators respectively, in trust of and for answering, paying and satisfying all and every and all manners of my gifts, legacies and directions that at any time hereafter, during my life, shall be by me anywise mentioned or given in or by any codicils or schedule to be hereto annexed. And lastly, that my said executors shall have, all and every of them, 100*l.* a-piece, of lawful money, in consideration of their care and trouble herein, and furthermore, all their several and respective expenses and charges in and about the execution of this my will. In witness of all which, I hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and year first above written.

"E. G."

"Signed, sealed, published and declared, in the presence of us, who, at the same time, subscribe our names, also in her presence,

"Lucy Hamilton Sandys, Edward Wyborne, John Warner, William Scarborough, James Booth."

On a separate sheet, as a codicil, is—

"The last request of Mrs. Ellen Gwynn to his Grace the Duke of St. Alban's, made October the 18th, 1687.

"1. I desire I may be buried in the church of St. Martin's-in-the-fields.

"2. That Dr. Tenison may preach my funeral sermon.

"3. That there may be a decent pulpit-cloth and cushion given to St. Martin's-in-the-fields.

"4. That he would give one hundred pounds for the use of the poor of the said St. Martin's and St. James's, Westminster, to be given into the hands of the said Dr. Tenison, to be disposed of at his discretion, for taking any poor debtors of the said parish out of prison, and for cloaths this winter, and other necessities, as he shall find most fit.

"5. That for showing my charity to those who differ from me in religion, I desire that fifty pounds may be put into the hands of Dr. Tenison and Mr. Warner, who, taking to them any two persons of the Roman religion, may dispose of it for the use of the poor of that religion inhabiting in the parish of St. James's aforesaid.

"6. That Mrs. Rose Forster, may have two hundred pounds given to her, any time within a year after my decease.

"7. That Jo, my porter, may have ten pounds given him.

"My request to his Grace is, further—

"8. That my present nurses may have ten pounds each, and mourning, besides their wages due to them.

"9. That my present servants may have mourning each, and a year's wages, besides their wages due.

"10. That the Lady Fairborne, may have fifty pounds given her to buy a ring.

"11. That my kinsman, Mr. Chalmley, may have one hundred pounds given to him, within a year after this date.

"12. That his Grace would please to lay out twenty pounds yearly, for the releasing of poor debtors, out of prison, every Christmas-day.

"13. That Mr. John Warner may have fifty pounds given him to buy a ring.

"14. That the Lady Hollyman may have the pension of ten shillings per week, continued to her during the said lady's life."

"Oct. 18, -87.—This request was attested and acknowledged, in the presence of us—John Hetherington, Hannah Grace, Daniel Dyer."

"Dec. 5, 1687.—I doe consent that this paper of request may be made a codicil to Mrs. Gwynn's will.

"ST. ALBAN'S."

A writer in *The Champion*, June 3rd, 1742, No. 398, on "the Fraudulent Practices of Parish Vestries, and in particular that of St. Martin's-in-the-fields, observes, "I cannot forbear mentioning one action more laid to the charge of these honest men, viz.—Nell Gwyn, player, left a handsome income yearly to St. Martin's, on condition, that on every Thursday evening in the year, there should be six men employed, for the space of one hour in ringing, for which they were to have a roasted shoulder of mutton and ten shillings for beer; but this legacy is of late diverted some other way, and no such allowance is now given."

No authority, beyond report, appears for this assertion.

Persons incarcerated for debt in Whitecross-street prison, that being the county gaol for Middlesex, have some allowance, on a particular day in the year, which is denominated Nell Gwynne's Bounty, but whence this arises, or how paid, I have yet to learn.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

In the dulllest of all days for matters of science and genius, we are glad to hear the announcement of any work which promises information to the mind, or pleasure to the fancy. Edwin Landseer has all but finished a noble picture of Sir Walter Scott. The great poet is sitting meditating in the Rymer's Glen, of Abbotsford, with his two favourite stag-hounds at his side. A little stream, called the Huntly Burn, is glimmering among the bushes; and the inspired look of the bard and romantic aspect of the scene recall, it is said, those fine verses of the old ballad describing True Thomas, the minstrel, conscious of the presence of the Queen of Elfland. This will form a fine companion to the more domestic picture by Allan, in which Scott is seated in the Waverley Study, reading a manuscript.

We hear, also, that some one is manufacturing a Life of Sir Walter Scott, for Mr. Bentley, and that it will soon be ready for publication. We have not heard the writer named; it is, however, a bold enterprise, as the family papers, and the memoranda and correspondence of Scott, are in the hands of Mr. Lockhart, to be employed in the Memoir now preparing. There were several Lives of Johnson published, before the inimitable one of Boswell outstripped all competition.

On New Year's Day, a new Monthly Journal, the exclusive subject of which is to be the Fine Arts, was to be published at Milan, under the title of *Giornale delle Arti del Disegno*. Some of the most eminent literati of Italy, such as Count Bossi, Professor Romagnosi, Sacchi (the antiquarian), Palagi and Migliara (painters), Monti (the sculptor), Durella and Canonica (architects), and Anderloni, (the engraver), are engaged to write for this publication.

Much uncertainty prevails about the opening of the Italian Opera. The frequent changes in the administration of this establishment are highly injurious to all parties. We suspect that Laporte was too late to secure an efficient company for the early part of the season, when he took possession. 'Corradino,' or Mozart's 'Figaro,' we hear, will be the first opera. Signor Costa is engaged as *Maestro*; he is a clever musician, but much too young to have the control of the musical department; and much too accommodating in patching up operas with his own compositions. Mad. de Meric, who sang in Italian, French, and German operas last season, is engaged to sing in the English version of 'Don Juan,' at Drury Lane, and also at the King's Theatre, in the Italian operas.

Capt. Polhill is making great efforts to secure talent for his German Operas. Some valuable acquisitions are to be added to the band. The vocal department, says Monsieur the Director, cannot be equalled! The bewitching Herbele is said to have married, and retired from the stage.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 24.—The Rev. William Buckland, D.D. Vice President, in the chair. A paper was read, entitled 'Magnetical Experiments made principally in the south part of Europe, and Asia

Minor, during the years 1827 to 1832; by the Rev. George Tucker, A.M. F.R.S.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 22.—After Dr. Grant's third lecture on the structure and classification of animals, the second regular meeting of the society was held, at which a member of the council presided. A communication was read, which had been received from Mr. Telfair, the secretary to the Natural History Society of the Mauritius, the paper having been written by a French naturalist residing at Madagascar. It described a singular dripping tree of that country, from which a fluid fell copiously during the hottest part of the day, the quantity bearing a proportion to the intensity of the sun's rays. The leaves of this tree, which is considered to be a species of mulberry, are infested with the larvæ of an insect, allied to *cicada spumaria*, but probably as yet undescribed; from the bodies of these larvæ the fluid was observed to descend; it was transparent, without any disagreeable taste; and animals permitted to drink of it appeared to suffer no inconvenience.

Mr. Bennett made some observations on a preserved specimen of an Antelope from India, which closely resembled the young of *Antelope cervicapra* of Pallas.

Short descriptive characters were also read of several new species of shells from the collection of Mr. Cuming. Dr. Grant read a notice of the occurrence of *Janthina communis* and *Velutella limboza*, of both of which he had found specimens in considerable numbers in September last, on the shore near the Land's End, Cornwall, after a gale of wind. The anatomical structure of both animals was described. Mons. Riffard afterwards exhibited his numerous and beautiful Zoological drawings made during his long sojourn in Egypt and Nubia, after which the meeting was adjourned to February 12.

WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The discussion on Phrenology was resumed on Saturday the 12th, when the President (Dr. Copland) called the attention of the members to the ancient claims of the science. He stated, he had twenty years since seen a Latin work in Dr. Monroe's library two hundred years old, connected with the subject. Mr. Holme had in his possession a treatise on the question three hundred years old; and Mr. De Ville informed the society that he had a work written in the year 1562, in which the head was divided into several compartments on Phrenological principles, and further, that he possessed a curious Chinese work on Physiognomy, dated four hundred years since, wherein the cranium was mapped out in divisions very analogous to modern times.

In the course of the debate, Dr. Gilkrest presented Mons. Leuret's letter to the Academy of Sciences in Paris, relative to his discoveries on the laminated structure of the brain; Phrenologists having hitherto considered it radiated, it was suggested that Mons. Leuret's opinions were likely to bear particularly on this question.

At the conclusion, Mr. Holme again invited the profession and literary world generally to view the late Dr. Spurzheim's collection, at his residence, North Crescent, Bedford Square, between the hours of half-past two and four.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MONDAY.	Royal College of Physicians	Nine, P.M.
	Royal Geographical Society	Nine, P.M.
	Medical Society	Eight, P.M.
TUESDAY.	Institution of Civil Engineers	Eight, P.M.
WEDNES.	Society of Arts	past 7, P.M.
THURSDAY.	Royal Society	past 8, P.M.
	Society of Antiquaries	Eight, P.M.
FRIDAY.	Royal Institution	past 8, P.M.
SATURDAY.	Royal Asiatic Society	Two, P.M.
	Westminster Medical Society	Eight, P.M.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF DUBLIN.†

At the first meeting for the season of this Society, Sir Charles Giesecké in the chair, His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, and nearly twenty other gentlemen, were announced as new members.

A communication from Mr. Molloy, relative to the conglomerate found near the beach at Kingstown, was read. A paper by Capt. Portlock, on the general features of the basaltic district of the North of Ireland, was read. The author stated several facts which seemed to bear out the conclusion that the basalt of this district overlies and fills a chalk basin throughout its entire extent. The paper contained also some valuable suggestions as to the mode of tracing the direction of the volcanic currents, &c.

Two propositions were then made by the Council, to the Society. In one of these the Council desired to be authorized to conclude an arrangement respecting rooms for the purposes of the Society;—in the other they requested authority to make arrangements for the delivery of a course of lectures on Geology, at the meetings of the Society. Both propositions were agreed to. The Society then adjourned.

Dec. 12.—A meeting of the Society was held on the evening of this day, Sir Charles Giesecké in the chair.

A paper was read by Dr. Apjohn, on the trap formations of the county of Limerick, and illustrative specimens exhibited. In this paper the author noticed many interesting points, not adverted to in Mr. Weaver's paper on the same subject, contained in the Transactions of the Geological Society of London. The intimate union of the trap and calcareous rocks in this district was ably commented on by the author, and his paper contained a chemical analysis of some of the more remarkable rocks. The occurrence of basalt, in more than one place, in a perfectly columnar form, was also noticed.

The Society adjourned until the second Wednesday in January.

FINE ARTS

The Widow; or, Adieu to the Woods. Drawn by H. Richter; engraved by Lupton. Moon & Boys.

A fine, rosy young widow, with probably a large jointure, has "borne about the mockery of woe" for her stipulated twelvemonth, and now, by the aid of her milliner, prepares to burst out on the world in all the attractions of white satin, armlets and rings, spider's-web lace and artificial flowers. The tire-woman looks too pertly conscious of the change she is working; and the maid expresses her pleasure by uplifted hands; but these defects are as nothing compared to the subdued satisfaction which is visible in the widow herself.

What is Copyright?—The question which has lately arisen respecting the right to engrave from Wilkie's 'Blind Fiddler,' is one of such general application, and so intimately affecting the interests of artists and publishers, that it must assuredly be determined by law at no very distant day. The *Affidavit* has replied to our argument, and we therefore again advert to the subject, because, when a question of this importance can be discussed in good temper, with an able opponent, the truth may be advanced by it. Our readers will remember that we at once denied the difference of opinion assumed to exist between us and our contemporary. We agreed to all his conclusions, but joined issue upon the facts, and only requested proof of his own state-

†Our Correspondent unfortunately sent his communication by a private hand, and this will explain the delay in publishing the report. We hope that in future he will trust only to His Majesty's Post Office.

ment, that Sir George Beaumont had "granted the exclusive right" to engrave from the picture to any one. Our contemporary must excuse us for stating, that he now abandons *his own case* altogether; he not only offers no proof of such grant, but takes up an entirely new argument, and starts, by assuring us, that it is not necessary, to insure copyright, that *exclusive right* should have been granted. How that may be, remains to be discussed, but it certainly was not the point upon which we heretofore differed. On the former occasion we admitted the force and validity of our contemporary's argument, but questioned his facts: he has now shifted his position, and we agree respecting the facts, but deny his inferences. These are his words:—

"The *Athenæum* appears to be of opinion, that unless Sir George Beaumont granted to the Proprietors of the well-known print the *exclusive* privilege to engrave it, the right to reproduce it is vested with its present owners. Our contemporary may depend upon it, that its notions on this subject are erroneous. The proprietors of the manuscripts of Sir Walter Scott's novels, sold by public auction a few months ago, might just as well assume the same right. As in the case of a book, the copyright is vested in the first publication from the original, and not in the original itself. If it could be supposed to be otherwise, who would ever be able to speculate on a copyright with the remotest chance of being left in the undisturbed possession of his purchase?"

Now, it appears to us, that the purchaser of the MSS. referred to, is in the precise situation of the purchaser of the freehold contemplated in our last; he purchases, subject of course, to the limitations and restrictions to which the original proprietor had subjected the property. The copyright had been separated from the MSS. by one whose right was absolute, and had the purchaser proceeded to publish, he would have been stopped by proof of this being offered, in the same way that should a purchaser of the freehold proceed to take possession, he would be stayed by proof that possession had been granted heretofore to another. As to the illustrative case of a book, in which our contemporary says "the copyright is vested in the first publication," &c., we think his assertion much too broad and unconditional; if, indeed, it be assumed as true, it would settle another question, and establish as law, that there is no such thing as copyright in a picture; but we shall not discuss this, because the cases do not seem to us at all analogous. The following is more in point:—the publisher of a translated work has an undoubted copyright in it, yet such copyright in no way affects the right to make other translations. So we hold, that, in engravings, unless the proprietor of a picture has granted the "exclusive right," he has not, by a mere act of courtesy in giving permission, divested himself of his positive property in the picture, and he may permit others to engrave from it—such others, having of course no more right to avail themselves of or use the former engraving, than the subsequent translator has the original translation: in both cases proof that such use had been made, might be difficult, but that in no way affects the argument. To our contemporary's question, that, if this be law, who can ever speculate in copyright with the remotest chance of being left in the undisturbed possession of his purchase?—we answer, every man who has prudence enough to secure "the undisturbed possession"—that is, the *exclusive* right, before he "speculates" in the purchase. It might as well be asked, who will build with the remotest chance of being dispossessed of the freehold?—why, no man; and therefore leases are granted, and lands transferred by deeds.

Our contemporary now proceeds to give legal authority; a something said by the late Lord

Ellenborough in a private conversation with the late Mr. Asperne. Now, we have heard the story often, but never as he relates it. The facts, we believe to have been, that Lord Ellenborough, having granted permission to Mr. Cribb to publish an engraving from Lawrence's picture, was subsequently applied to, for like permission, by Mr. Asperne; and his lordship referred Mr. Asperne to Mr. Cribb, to know whether such republication would affect his interest; Mr. Cribb thought it would, and his lordship declined, not because he had no right, but because he could not, under circumstances, accede to the request with propriety or with honour. As to his lordship having asserted that he could not, "because the copyright no longer remained at his disposal;" we never heard of his having used such words, or any others to that effect; and that he did use them, is hardly to be reconciled with our contemporary's own statement, that his lordship referred to Mr. Cribb, and demurred after that gentleman had declared against it. The truth is, as the able writer in the *Alfred* must see, the value of his lordship's "travelling opinion" depends on the exact words—and for these he must, like ourselves, depend on the report of others. We were assured, that he was misinformed, when, on the former occasion, he spoke of "the exclusive right" having been granted; and the abandoning this important point seems like a late consciousness of it on his part. We believe, he is misinformed now; but we do not ask for proof that Lord Ellenborough ever said what he reports, because, no man's opinion can have more weight than, in reason, it is entitled to; and we do not think it well, to embarrass the question by irrelevant discussion.

MUSIC

VOCAL CONCERTS.

THE second of these performances has verified the truth of our predictions on the probable consequences of "managers becoming actors." We had, for example, a descriptive Cantata by Percy, sung by Braham, without orchestral accompaniment, which, of course, did not succeed; secondly, the *Scena col Coro*, from Faust, requiring the vigour and power of a Braham, was entrusted to Mr. Horncastle, whose thin tenor voice was completely overwhelmed and lost in the "maze" of chorus and accompaniment; thirdly, Mr. Bellamy, the ci-devant bass singer of the Antient Concerts, attempted more than he ought, and failed to do well what he attempted; fourthly, the puny voice of Master Howe is sufficient to spoil a much better glee than 'Oh, how I long my careless limbs to lay,' by Sir J. Rogers; fifthly, the buffo part in Mozart's Quintetto from *Zauberflöte* 'Hm, Hm,' should have been given to Phillips, whose talent was entirely thrown away in Paer's duet 'Dolce dell' anima'; lastly, it is little short of presumption for any vocalist with an ordinary compass of voice, to attempt the music of 'Regina,' in *Zauberflöte*. Notwithstanding these failures, there was much that was good and well executed, and deserving our approbation. Two old madrigals, sung by numerous voices to each part, with due observance of *crecendo* and *diminuendo*, were very effective; the one by Wilbye (1609) was enclosed. A similar compliment was paid to a well written glee, by Goss, admirably executed by Miss Clara Novello and three others. An elegant and new composition, sung by Mr. Parry, Jun., accompanied with flute, clarinet, horn, and piano-forte, did much credit to the well known taste and genius of Bishop, who presided. A chorus, by the same composer, 'The tiger couches in the wood,' (The Maniac) is one of the best dramatic choral pieces of the English drama. The remainder of the selec-

tion not noticed, consisted of well known and sufficiently well appreciated glees, and Battishill's Anthem, 'Behold, how good.' We earnestly recommend the directors to give four madrigals, instead of two each night.

Mr. Eliason's Soirée Musicale.—The entertainment consisted solely of chamber music, and each piece was executed with great care and skill. We particularly admired 'Gentle Airs,' beautifully sung by Mr. Bennett, and as beautifully accompanied on the violoncello by Lindley; a flute solo by Nicholson, a duet for violin and piano, in which Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Eliason displayed great skill and taste on their respective instruments, and a very beautiful and original air composed for the occasion by Mons. Chélaré, and exquisitely sung in English by Madame de Meric, accompanied by Messrs. Lindley and Eliason. Mrs. H. Bishop, Mr. Wilson, and Signor Giubilei, contributed to the entertainment of the evening.

Concerts of Antient Music.—A meeting of the musical professors connected with these Concerts took place yesterday, when a communication was made to them, that, in consequence of the depressed state of the finances, and the little prospect of their improvement, a reduction of the salaries in the vocal and instrumental departments must be acceded to, or the Concerts would be discontinued. Many and widely different reasons were assigned by those present, to explain how this lamentable crisis had been brought about; the true one may be inferred from our notice of the first Concert last season.† The old monopoly and monotony too long held sway; the directors would not yield to public feeling and the spirit of the age.

THEATRICALS

STRAND THEATRE.

MISS KELLY's long talked-of entertainment was at last presented to the town, at the above-mentioned house, on Thursday evening—and an entertainment it proved to be, in more than a name. The house was very well attended, and a warm and hearty welcome came showering down from all sides, when Miss Kelly made her appearance, the applause being wound up and crowned by "one cheer more," upon the special motion of an enthusiastic individual in the Pit. This entertainment is constructed upon the model of those with which the town has been made so pleasantly familiar by Mr. Mathews. Indeed, the principal portion of it has been laid down on the same "slips," and launched from the dock of the same master play-wright, who formerly built for that gentleman. If it is an arduous undertaking for a single male performer to set about amusing an audience, from his individual resources, for a whole evening, it may easily be imagined, that the difficulty is vastly enhanced when the task devolves upon a female. And when we recollect that the advantages which imitations, and greater facility in changes of dress give to a man, the obstacles to success in such a performance as that which we have now, for the first time in our dramatic annals, to report upon, become so great as to require a positive giantess in talent, to surmount them. This giantess Miss Kelly has shown herself to be, and her powers were on Thursday at once made manifest, and acknowledged by a delighted audience, who were forced at her bidding to ring the changes upon smiles, tears, and applause. The dressers were awkward, beyond our powers of description; and the entertainment, already far too long, was made infinitely longer by their bungling. All this will, doubtless, be rectified, upon a future occasion, and there is every pro-

spect of ample remuneration to the actress for her exertions, and to the audience for attending. The best drawn, and best represented characters, are, *Mrs. Parthian*, an old lady, troubled with confused dramatic recollections—*Lady Savage*, a devoted admirer of dogs and horses, and described as being, in every sense of the word, "a complete horse-woman," who calls to dissuade Miss Kelly from her undertaking, because she considers it "unfeminine"—*Sally Simkin*, a female servant, "ugly to a merit," who eats plum-pudding, and snivels after her *John Jones*, with whom she used to keep company, who, being sick at sea, not sea sick, has sent her a lock of hair, which, knowing she preferred dark to light, he had cut, dear creature! with his own hands from the boatswain's head—(this Sally treasures in her nutmeg-grater)—and *Mrs. Drake*, the amiable partner of an itinerant exhibitor of wild beasts. There are others of various degrees of merit, but we believe we have mentioned the most worthy, though we write without a bill of the performance, which we ought to have by us. The best anecdotes and stories, are those of John Kemble, Mrs. Siddons, Mrs. Jordan, the hasty meeting and parting of the two brothers, the naval and military officers, and Mrs. Miffy, with her "piano-forte" and "letter-forte." Miss Kelly having occasion, when acting in a country town, to use a piano-forte upon the stage, and there not being such a thing in the establishment, succeeds in borrowing one from the great lady of the place. It is in Miss Kelly's part to make some observation in depreciation of the quality of the aforesaid instrument, and the lady, considering it a personal affront, leaves the box, into which she had brought a large party to witness the *début* of her property. She next day writes a letter to Miss Kelly, in which she upbraids her with her ingratitude, and revenges the personal affront upon the personal pronouns, and flings back the confusion into which she has been thrown on the previous evening, with scorn amongst his Majesty's English. The anecdote about the song of 'Hope told a flattering tale,' with the disbanding flageolet accompaniment, was well told, and told well. Some of the songs and snatches were effective, and so were several other matters, which we have not space to particularize. There were thunders of applause, it is true; but still the performance wanted lightening. In the name of good taste, let us entreat Miss Kelly to omit Mrs. Mattock's mad story. It is essentially unfit for dramatic exhibition, and is one of those things which leads to nothing, from which no useful lesson can be drawn, which may be painful to many without the possibility of its being pleasing to any, and which is the more repulsive the better it is given. Beyond this we have few objections to make, and these we shall not make—at all events at present, because a considerable curtailment must take place, and Miss Kelly's good sense will no doubt lead her, after the experience of Thursday, to remove those parts which were least effective. We are quite aware that the whole affair will proceed more rapidly in future; but an hour and a half must come out somehow. We have omitted to mention Miss Kelly's introductory address, which is written with great point and elegance. She was, between anxiety and exertion, completely exhausted before the mono-dramatic part commenced; and that portion therefore had not a fair chance, but it went well notwithstanding. At the conclusion, the applause was as hearty as at the commencement. This new coinage of Miss Kelly's received the stamp of genuine public approbation, and it will doubtless pass current for a considerable time. Whenever it is called in, we trust it will be found that value has been received.

† See *Athenæum*, No. 228.

MISCELLANEA

Perkins's Steam Generator.—In some of our former numbers† we noticed Mr. Perkins's newly discovered system of generating steam, by means of a lining placed within the boiler, thus effecting a continuous circulation of the heated water; the advantages anticipated were the generating steam with increased rapidity, the preservation of the boiler, and the saving of fuel. In proof of the great probability that the result will fully answer expectation, we are enabled to state, that during the last fourteen weeks, in which period Mr. Perkins has been engaged in the application of his principle on the Liverpool and Manchester rail-road, one of the locomotive engines employed thereon, having his lining or circulator introduced into its boiler, has, during 360 successive journeys, to and fro, between Liverpool and Manchester, run upwards of 20,000 miles without the slightest appearance of wear and tear, the tubes of the boiler, at the end of the journey, being as free from corrosion as at the first moment of their use, and with a saving of fuel to the extent of 40 tons, when contrasted with the ascertained consumption of another locomotive engine drawing equal weight. These important results must prove of vital consequence to the great question of railway conveyance, which so much occupies the attention of the public at the present time.

Geographical Science.—A 'Geographical and Artistic Institute' has been formed at Leipzig, chiefly for the furtherance of the science of Geography in all its branches. The firstfruits of its labours will be the publication of 'Geographical Annals,' with plates and maps, of which four volumes will appear annually. It announces also 'A Universal Cosmography,' which will comprise the history, geography, and statistics of every country, to be written by English, French, and German writers, and published in their respective languages. It is calculated, that the work will extend to fifty volumes, and be completed in ten years!

Rome.—The first meeting, for the winter season, of the Academy of Archaeology, was held under the roof of the "Sapienza" on the 6th of December last. The business of the meeting was opened by M. Vescovali, with a memoir on the large painting recently discovered at Pompeii, which has been hitherto supposed to represent the battle between Alexander and Darius. Vescovali, however, maintains, that the actors in the scene are Gauls, and that it is a representation of their expedition to Delphi, and expulsion by the Greeks. Aureli, the sculptor, has just completed a beautiful figure in statuary marble, of the size of life, for Prince Francis Borghese. The subject is 'Innocence with her attendant dove.'

Turin.—At the last meeting of the Physico-Mathematical Class of the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Chevalier Avogadro reported favourably from a committee on a novel kind of barometer, to which Captain Porro, the Sardinian engineer, has given the name of the "Eumetric portable Thermo-Barometer." Professor Miceli, whose 'History of Italy before the dominion of the Romans,' has given him so distinguished a name in Italian literature, has published a history of the ancient people of Italy, (*Storia degli antichi Popoli Italiani*), in three volumes, accompanied by a folio atlas, containing a map of ancient Italy, and one hundred and twenty engravings.

"M. Eliacin Carmoly, Grand Rabbi of Belgium, and Member of the Asiatic Society of Paris, intends publishing, shortly, a new edition of the Travels of Benjamin of Tudela, in Hebrew, from a MS. of the 15th century, and ac-

companied with notes and a French translation. The whole will be comprised in one volume 8vo. *Foreign Quarterly Review*.

A new Article of Export.—The game of curling, which at one time was little known beyond the precincts of the eastern and southern counties of Scotland, has waxed greatly in public favour within the last dozen years, and is now practised at John O'Groats, in various parts of England, and over a large portion of the two Canadas. Channel stones now form a regular article of export, and give constant employment to various artists in Ayrshire. Not a few of the stones are carved and ornamented, and bring very high prices.—*Dumfries Courier*.

The Real and the Ideal.—To let the imagination sicken with love of ideal beauty, till it pines away into echo, is worse than folly; but to check our affections, and school our ideas, till thought and feeling reject everything they cannot see, touch, and handle, certainly is not wisdom.—*The Mother's Story Book*.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL

Days of the Week.	Thermom.	Barometer.	Winds.	Weather.
	W. & M.	Max. Min.		
Th. 17	42 35	30.05	N.E.	Cloudy.
Fr. 18	40 35	Stat.	N.E.	Iditto.
Sat. 19	40 35	30.12	N.E.	Clear.
Sun. 20	42 26	Stat.	E.	Iditto.
Mon. 21	40 23	30.25	E.	Iditto.
Tues. 22	36 22	30.40	E.	Iditto.
Wed. 23	32 23	30.45	E.	Iditto.

Prevailing Clouds.—Cirrostratus, Cumulus. Nights and mornings fair and frosty throughout the week.

Mean temperature of the week, 31°; greatest variation, 20°.

Day increased on Wednesday, 50 min.

NOVELTIES IN LITERATURE AND ART.

'My Ten Years Imprisonment' in Italian and Austrian Dungeons, by Silvio Pellico. Translated from the Original, by Thomas Roscoe.

Notre-Dame, a Tale of the Ancient Regime, from the French of Victor Hugo.

Field Book, or, Sports and Pastimes of the British Islands, by the author of 'Wild Sports of the West,' illustrated.

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Just published.—Lee's Ecclesiastical Reports, by Phillimore, 2 vols. royal 8vo. 2l. 10s.—Golden Legends, containing the Braclet, the Locket, and the Signet Ring, 3 vols. post 8vo. 1l. 11s.—The Broken Heart, 12mo. 5s.—India's Priest to British Humanity, by James Pegg, 8vo. 10s.—Dove's History of the Wesley Family, 12mo. 5s.—Byron Portraits, No. 1., with 3 plates, 5s.—Mance on the Ligature of Arteries, coloured plates, 4to. 1l. 8s.—Stuart's Three Years in North America, 2 vols. post 8vo. 1l. 1s.—Gesenius's Hebrew Lexicon, abridged by Gibbs, 8vo. 9s.—Fittin's Geology of Hastings, 12mo. 4s.—The Chameleon, for 1833, 8vo. 12s.—Scudamore's Further Observations on the Gout, &c., 8vo. 6s.—Marshall's Naval Biography, Vol. 4, Part I. 8vo. 15s.—Massingherd on Church Reform, 12mo. 3s. 6d.—Vansommer's Minstrel, and other Poems, 5s.—Ivimey's Life of Milton, 10s.—Practical Account of the Epidemic Cholera, by W. Twining, post 8vo. 6s.—Henderson's New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, 8vo. 7s.

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Thanks to C. A. S.—T. H.—S. N.

To Advertisers.—THE MONTHLY PART OF THE ATHENÆUM having attained to a very extensive sale, the Proprietors have determined to insert Miscellaneous Advertisements on the Wrapper, displayed in a larger type than that used in the Weekly Numbers. Commencing, therefore, with the FEBRUARY Part, Advertisements will be received until the 20th of the Month; after which their insertion for that Month cannot be insured. The number of Advertisements that are weekly excluded from the Journal, for want of room, has induced the Proprietors to adopt this plan.

ADVERTISEMENTS

LAW CLASS.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.
The LAW CLASS will meet again on Tuesday, the 29th January, when Professor PARK will resume the two Courses on POSITIVE LAW and SCIENTIFIC LAW, commenced last Session; and on Friday, the 1st February, the two Courses on EQUITY, at 8 o'clock precisely. The Course on the Tuesday Evenings will be principally devoted to the LAWS RELATIVE TO THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONS; and the Course on the Friday Evenings, to PROPERTY LAW, and CONVEYANCING.—Further particulars may be obtained at the Secretary's Office.

W. OTTER, M.A. Principal.

FORENSIC MEDICINE.—Dr. CUMMIN will commence the SPRING COURSE OF LECTURES, in the Theatre of the MEDICAL SCHOOL, 56, ALDERSGATE-STREET, on TUESDAY, the 29th instant, at 11 o'clock.—For particulars apply at the School, or at 24, Great Russell-street, Bedford-square.

LONDON MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—LECTURES.

THOMAS ADAMS, Esq. on MUSIC—Jan. 30, and Feb. 6.
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H. INNES, Esq. on the GENIUS OF LORD BYRON—Feb. 27.
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